WORLD / A24

Poland's president picks identical twin brother as new PM

NEWS / A2

Board of generals giving GMA free hand in choice of new AFP chief of staff

NEWS / A4

Over 100 killed in 7 simultaneous train blasts in India

2BU! / C2

2 movies, hot snacks, other things rocking the Pinoy youth

2 expert lip readers solve Zidane head butt

LONDON—"SON OF A terrorist whore . . . as just f*** off!"

Two British newspapers on Tuesday claimed that expert lip readers had solved the mystery of what Italy's Marco

LIPREADERS A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, July 13, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 214 P18 online: www.inq7.net

SWS: Dissatisfaction with GMA decreasing

STILL NEGATIVE BUT IMPROVING

The net satisfaction rating of President Macapagal-Arroyo rose 12 points to -13, with 34 percent of Filipinos saying they were satisfied with her performance and 48 percent saying they were not, according to a recent survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS).

The President's rating has gone up the past

SWS A4

'Senga waited 2 hours'

AFP report details timeline of Feb. 24 plot

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ARMED FORCES CHIEF of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga waited nearly two hours before he convened his top brass to deal with rebellious officers urging him to join them in withdrawing support from President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24, a draft report of a military investigative panel said.

The report did not say whether Senga immediately reported the plot to Ms Arroyo.

The unsigned report contained earlier from some accounts surrounding what Ms Arroyo described in her declaration of a national state of emergency on that fateful day as a leftist and rightist conspiracy to oust her.

SENGA A6

GRAND ENTRANCE: President Arroyo leads Vice President Noli de Castro, members of her Cabinet, governors of northern Luzon, Central Luzon and Mindanao on the way to the joint Cabinet and Regional Development Council meeting at the Palace on Tuesday.

Malacañang distributed cash to bishops

By Christine V. Esguerra

LIKE MANNA DROPPING FROM heaven, envelopes containing between P20,000 and P30,000 in cash were purportedly offered to a number of bishops during the recent retreat and plenary assembly of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Asked yesterday about the purported doles tipped off to the Inquirer, one bishop admitted to being handed an envelope by a "trusted looking" man who had introduced himself as a messenger "from Malacañang."

The bishop, a soft-spoken and low-key member of the CBCP and based in one of the country's poorest dioceses, said he was offended but politely rejected the envelope.

"It was revolting. I felt insulted. Medyo garapal," he said, adding that earlier this year he had also

MALACAÑANG A10

ERAP'S NEW NEIGHBOR

Lim moved to maximum security jail

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Margaux C. Ortiz

CLAIMING SOME GROUPS EITHER planned to harm him or rescue him, Army authorities charged Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim in a heavy security module last night, hours after the ousted Scout Ranger commander defended his video tape declaring his withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lim was transferred from Fort Bonifacio, where he had been restricted to quarters, to a maximum security military facility in Tanay, Rizal—marking him a candidate for detained former President Joseph Estrada, who is held just across the street.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon ordered Lim's transfer "after receiving reports that some groups are planning to inflict harm on Lim or to spring him out to prevent him from testifying," Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said.

Before the transfer, Lim appeared at the National Bureau of Investigation, denied involvement in any coup plot and said his declaration on video renouncing his support of Ms Arroyo had, in fact, thwarted plans by soldiers to overthrow her.

The former commander of the elite Presidential Security Group (PSG) and the Scout Rangers Regiment also said he never hid the existence of the video tape showing him reading a statement and calling Ms Arroyo a "bogus president," but said the tape was "illegally obtained."

"Nakatanong pa nga yan para hanapin [kung] ang mga batang officials' yung phone nila kung nagpuwesto man sila ng sniper. Di ba? Even helped convince the young officers not to push through with their plans to launch a coup, if they had such plans, eh?," Lim told reporters after appearing before NBI officials.

He added: "It convinced them that there are other means be-

LIM A2

SUMMONED: Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim arrives at the NBI for questioning on his alleged involvement in the Feb. 24 coup plot.

CBCP: From 'we reject' to 'not inclined'

By Christine V. Esguerra

THE SOUND AND FURY WHICH within chain are missing in the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' pastoral statement on Monday can be probably gleaned from how the prelates deliberated.

There were no spirited debates behind the statement, titled "Shepherding and Prophesying in Hope," that marked deliberations in July 2005 when the CBCP stayed away from calls that President Macapagal-Arroyo step aside over claims she rigged the 2004 election but that she should not ignore them altogether.

The only point of contention during the plenary over the weekend was the latest impeachment case against the President, according to a CBCP insider brief-

CBCP A10

New PSG chief is intel expert

By Christine O. Avendaño

AN AIR FORCE OFFICER WITH A long experience in intelligence work is the new chief of President Macapagal-Arroyo's security force.

Col. Romeo Poquiz, current deputy chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), will take over today from Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit as head of the Presidential Security Group (PSG).

Poquiz is a classmate of Bangit at the Philippine Military Academy and both belong to Class 1976.

NEW PSG A6

'Genital injuries consistent' with rape

THE DEFENSE tries to discredit expert witness Raquel Fortun citing her alleged bias due to her active advocacy of women's rights.

By Volt Contreras and Tarra V. Quismundo

THE EXPERT WITNESS PRESENTED in court yesterday by the prosecution in the Subic rape case maintained that the genital injuries of the complainant were "consistent" with her claim of sexual violation.

Dr. Raquel Fortun, a leading forensic pathologist, refuted the observations earlier made by Dr. Rolando Ortiz, the medico-legal officer who had examined the alleged rape victim.

Bringing a stack of about 15 books and journals with her to the stand, Fortun was asked by private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua for her opinion on Ortiz's findings on "bloods," particularly on the conclusion found on her limbs and private parts.

"If [sexual intercourse] is non-consensual, genital injuries would be consistent," said Fortun, citing passages from her reference materials, including handbooks on sexual assault investigation.

She contended that injuries could also occur during consensual sex, but said there would be "censored" because a willing woman would assume a position that would make her not only "relaxed" but also "receptive" to her partner.

Contrary to the schedule previously agreed on, Nicole did not return to the stand yesterday.

Prosecutors asked Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon at the start of the hearing to let them call back Fortun and take advantage of her available time.

The Filipina complainant is re-

CENTRAL A2

'Bishops pushing people to stage people power'

By Norman Bordadora

AFTER THE COUNTRY'S ROMAN Catholic bishops expressed lack of faith in current moves to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo, what next?

Two of the country's legal experts yesterday portrayed two possible scenarios in the country's search for the truth behind the allegations that Ms Arroyo cheated in the 2004 election.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga said the statement of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines that it could not support current impeachment moves could leave people with no choice but to stage another People Power revolution.

Former Commission on Elections Chair Christian Monsod, a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, said that next year's mid-term elections were another way out of the political impasse.

Monsod is a convenor of the civil society group One Voice, one of the groups which the CBCP in its statement commended for outspokenness.

"The bishops may be pushing the people to stage another people power. The bishops are virtually telling the people there is no more hope," Salonga said in an interview at the offices of his lawyers' watchdog group Ribonknown.

Salonga, a Protestant leader, agreed with the bishops that the impeachment process in the country was far from perfect.

He, however, said that it was the last

BISHOPS A10

A2
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Esperon heads list of bets for top AFP post

By Julie S. Alipala and Ed C. Catacutan Jr.

THE BOARD OF GENERALS (BOG) WANTS to give President Macapagal-Arroyo a free hand in choosing her next armed forces chief of staff, according to outgoing military chief Gen. Generoso Senga.

"I cannot say who will replace me. There are many candidates, those with the service commands and those who are already senior officers," Senga said during a roundtable chat in Camp Aguinaldo.

The BOG members are Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jun Styro, Navy chief Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga, Army chief Lieutenant General Esperon Jr., Armed Forces vice chief Lt. Gen. Rafael Ileto, deputy vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Victoria Lim and Senga.

Ms Arroyo is set to hold post-mortem with her top generals before announcing her choice for the successor of Senga who will retire on July 21.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said yesterday that "the President would most likely have top generals conduct consultations individually" in the coming days to tell them what the manner is his next chief of staff as well as to personally assess their individual visions for the military's future.

4 candidates

Defensor said the top four candidates being considered for the photo post are: Esperon, Styro, Mayuga and Ileto.

He said the President apparently is choosing Senga's successor on the command recommendation of the program to professionalize the military after two decades of numerous adventurist and coup attempts.

He added that the President would pay close attention to how they plan to carry out the objective of professionalizing the military and whether the troops would follow him on their "high road."

While individual competence and leadership of the chief of staff would be considered, Defensor said loyalty especially to the Constitution and the chain-of-command ("not necessarily to the President") was critical.

Esperon, who often displayed his loyalty to the troops and who played a decisive role in quashing a coup plot in February, was said to military circles as the leading candidate. *With a report from Joselle Ruiz/Ifa, PDI Mindanao bureau*

Lt. San Juan to tell all

Magdalo financiers known Friday, says Army chief

By Tonette Orejas
PDI General Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—DETAINED First Lt. Lawrence San Juan will reveal on Friday the alleged financiers of the Magdalo group of renegade soldiers, Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said here on Monday.

"We will present to you Lt. San Juan probably this Friday," Esperon told reporters here following the opening of the war games between the Philippine and Malaysian armies.

Esperon declined to give details on what the Magdalo officer had so far divulged. "Please wait for that so we could all have the papers with us," he said.

San Juan, one of four rebel soldiers who escaped from Fort Bonifacio, was re-arrested in February this year in Batangas.

In the same interview, Esperon did not imply his displeasure when asked how San Juan, ranked Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim's whirlwind of support for President Macapagal-Arroyo, as shown in a videotape.

"Of course, when you break the chain of command, that is a violation of the articles of war," he added. "Insubordination is a violation. Disrespect is a violation. Inciting to mutiny is a violation," Esperon said.

Lim used to head the First Scout Ranger Regiment in Camp Tecson in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was sent with Lim yesterday after noon to the former's office.

Raul Gonzalez ignited not to divulge what the controversial military officer said during their two-hour meeting.

"The only telling are information that are confidential in nature ... but what he said carries a lot of weight," Gonzalez told the reporters in a telephone interview.

Asked whether Lim said something about the spy charges, Gonzalez said: "Cabinet secretaries, politicians and businessmen...who allegedly plotted and financed the aborted coup, Gonzalez opened to date the question.

"Decline we can concretize things ... We must look for collaborative statements or evidence, all things are being evaluated and appreciated," he said, adding, however, that what Lim said came from the "mouth of a credible witness."

According to him, Lim had agreed to "cooperate for the sake of the country."

Gonzalez said that Lim was also to subpoena that the tape where he was shown withdrawing support from the President was "leaked" and he warned the National Bureau of Investigation to find out who gave the tape to television station ABS-CBN.

Gonzalez also said they did not discuss the possibility of Lim turning into a state witness, saying if he had offered Lim such option or does Gen. Lim wanting, she let we might feel involved.

Lim Monday, Gonzalez said he was not ruling out the possibility of getting Lim as state witness to pin down the brains and financiers of the 9th 24 aborted coup attempt against the Arroyo administration.

"It would depend on the gravity of his [Lim] case. We cannot rule out anybody... depending on court's liability," Gonzalez had said. *With a report from Armand N. Nocum*

REVISITED, the house on Aster Street in Filinvest 2 in Quezon City yielded more evidence against Magdalo soldiers and two civilian supporters.

Magdalo officer to squeal on comrades, says prober

By Luige A. del Puerto, Armand Nocum and Tarra V. Quismundo

A MEMBER OF THE MAGDALO GROUP HAS turned his back on his former colleagues and has opted to cooperate with authorities, a senior investigator said yesterday.

Police said Lt. Patricio Bumidang, one of six rogue soldiers arrested in a raid in Quezon City, has expressed his willingness to cooperate with police investigators and has signed a document stating so.

"This is a huge breakthrough. If we are now groping in the dark, then we are seeing some light," said Senior Supt. Asher Dellosa, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region.

Dellosa said Bumidang might have finally realized "the futility" of the Magdalo group's actions. He hinted that Bumidang could become a state witness.

"During our raid when we captured them, I noticed even those like Lt. Bumidang appeared to be blaming his colleagues (for what happened)," Dellosa said.

But Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon said Bumidang cannot be used as a state witness against his co-accused because the crime of illegal possession of firearms is not a conspiratory.

Also captured during the raid were Capt. Nathaniel Fajilagna, 1st Lt. Sonny Sarmiento, 2nd Lt. Angelbert Ilay and Addie Baldovino, and Navy Lt.(j.g.) Kevin Sadaya, and two civilians, lawyer Christopher Belmonte and Michael Burgos.

The Department of Justice has filed before a Quezon City court charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives and direct assault against the six Magdalo soldiers.

Bumidang would be the second Magdalo officer to expand on his former colleagues. The army earlier confirmed that 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, another Magdalo officer captured in February in Batangas, had been cooperating with authorities.

On Monday night, Bumidang "turned over" three laptop computers, a flash disc, an external computer memory, at least nine mobile phones, a cybershot, three hand guns/rocks, and at least three envelopes containing documents.

Investigators were last to evidence and analyze the electronic documents.

Asked what they expect the documents to contain, CIDG chief Director Avelino Sermonia said, "It could contain(s) out initial analysis of the (plans) of the Magdalo, based on the (seized) blueprints of the Antonio complex, the proximity of their house to Batasan, and the listing (of their move to the area)," Sermonia said.

Warrens said that based on their initial analysis, the Magdalo group was planning to do some destabilization during the State of the Nation Address.

The CIDG had tried to apply for another warrant to arrest the nine that the raiding team had left behind inside the alleged Magdalo safehouse on Aster Street in Filinvest 2 in Quezon City.

But on Monday night, a chairman of Chilina from the Philippine Army told him Bumidang was already willing to help the police retrieve documents. Thus, a search warrant was no longer needed.

Dellosa said he had Bumidang executed a handwritten statement saying he was cooperating and that he was not coerced into doing so before he and CIDG officers proceeded to the PNL house subdivision.

Bumidang was accompanied by his lawyer, Francis Villanueva, police said.

Yesterday, two of the six captured renegade soldiers appeared in a Makati court.

Wearing only slippers, flaboras and facemasks, were brought by their military custodians to the Makati Regional Trial Court.

Antonio's lawyer Theodore Te and Alabanza's counsel, Jose Sagisag, however, noted that their clients were obviously not ready for the hearing, as they were to impromptu orders, unlike their co-accused who were in military uniform.

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S. Korea eases ban on foreign doctors

By Jovanie Aning

SOUTH KOREA IS planning to allow foreign doctors with medical licenses to get jobs in local hospitals and medical institutions there, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said yesterday.

In a statement, POEA said that the Ministry of Health and Welfare of South Korea recently announced its plan to revise the enforcement regulations in the country's Medical Law which is expected to be finalized in September.

POEA quoted a report by the Philippine Embassy in Seoul which said that under the proposed regulations, foreign doctors with medical licenses may be allowed to work in South Korea by March next year.

However, the regulations, if approved, would only allow a foreign doctor to treat patients who have the same nationality as the medical practitioner, or if they both speak the same language, but would not be allowed to treat Korean patients.

Revision

The revision would pave the way for the entry of Filipino doctors to South Korea to take care of the health needs of about 45,000 Filipinos and about 400,000 English-speaking foreigners now there, according to POEA.

The agency said that criteria about the qualifications and process of getting training foreign doctors are expected to come before the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the POEA said that the United Kingdom's Home Office has announced the removal of general nurses from the shortage occupation list, and is seeking only those with specific fields of specialization.

The new policy, according to the POEA, takes effect Aug. 14.

The move requires British employers to satisfy the resident labor market test first before they can recruit foreign nurses.

Pinay missing in Greece

A FILIPINA WOMAN has been missing for more than two weeks after she sailed from Athens and her Greek husband were sailing childhood with a high-speed yacht off the coast of Olympia in Greece.

In a statement, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) identified the Filipina as Claudine Gabrielle Valluran, a native of Cebu.

Valluran and her husband were on their sailboat "Sea Bird" when it collided with the English-flagged high-speed yacht "Clan" last June 24.

The sailboat was shattered and capsized immediately, according to the initial report of the Port Authority of Olympia. As the crisis [illegible]

DFA honors Fil-Am soldier slain in Iraq

FOREIGN SECRETARY ALBERTO Romulo offered his condolences to the family of a Filipino-American soldier who was killed in Iraq recently praising him for helping defend democracy, a government statement said yesterday.

Romulo has directed a Philippine consular official in the US to hand deliver his letter to the family of Army Spc. Christopher Sosa in San Francisco, a Department of Foreign Affairs statement said.

In his letter, Romulo said the Philippines honors Sosa's "bravery and commitment in helping secure a free, stable and democratic Iraq."

"Christopher represented the best of the Filipino-American—freedom loving, independent and goal-oriented," Romulo said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is among US President George W. Bush's closest allies in the US-led war on terror and has strongly supported joint Philippine-US counterterrorism exercises in the country involving hundreds of American soldiers, including many who served in Iraq.

Sosa was killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad on June 26, the only soldier who died in that incident. 121 military officials said. He had been injured a month earlier by another roadside bomb.

Sosa was in the 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas. He was the sixth Filipino-American soldier to die in Iraq, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Sosa, a Fullpipe marine who grew up in San Francisco, was sent to Iraq in December for his first tour of duty and was scheduled to go home in October.

He reportedly told family members while he enlisted in June 2004 that he wanted to make a difference, although many of them didn't want him to go to Iraq.

His father, Rudy Sosa, who is from Aklan, said Sosa has been buried in an incident a few months after arriving in Iraq in which he shot and killed several people running from the scene of a roadside bomb that exploded, following standard procedure. When Congs examined the bodies, they found they were children—one had a mobile phone modified to function as a remote detonation device.

The killing "bothered him terribly because they were just kids," Rudy Sosa said. AP

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Over 100 killed in Mumbai train bombings

NEW DELHI—MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE were killed on Tuesday in seven fatal explosions at rail stations and on trains in India's financial capital Mumbai, police said.

"There are 104 dead," a police official at the city's central control room, who gave his name as Bhatiale, told Reuters by phone.

Explosions hit at least five packed commuter trains during the evening rush hour on Tuesday, injuring scores of people, officials said.

"Casualties (victims) will go up. Ambulances and hospitals are on stand-by," D.K. Shankaran, chief secretary of the state of Maharashtra, of which Mumbai is the capital, told Reuters.

Seven blasts

Earlier, Mumbai's police chief A.N. Roy said at least 20 bodies had been taken to one hospital.

The local CNN-IBN news channel said at least 15 people were killed in one blast at Matunga station in central Mumbai.

"The blasts happened when the trains were most crowded," Shankaran said.

Roy told CNN-IBN three had been seven blasts on the rail network, on stations and on platforms.

Officials and nurses had been injured in the blasts, which also hit the suburbs of Khalsa, Santa Cruz and Khar.

"We have received at least 30 people in Mahim and about 40 to 50 in Bhatinga," A. Jhamlund, Mumbai's fire services chief told Reuters. "We have dousted the flames in all the blast sites and now are not taking the injured to hospitals."

Fire television channel showed more than half a dozen injured people at the Khar suburban station of Mumbai. One badly injured person lying near railway tracks was carried away by people using a long sheet of cloth.

'It's a sad day'

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh immediately called the home minister and other top officials to an emergency meeting to discuss the violence.

"It is a sad day," Home Secretary M.Duggal told reporters ahead of the meeting. "Security has been definitely put on high alert," Duggal said.Security forces were also seen rounds from injuries to bombs, legs and hands in the railway station, with little sign of any emergency medical aid.

The Mumbai blasts came just hours after suspected Islamist militants killed seven people, six of them tourists, in a series of grenade attacks in Srinagar, India's main city in Kashmir, police said, the most severed targeting of violence in months.

Kashmir has been split between India and Pakistan since shortly after the two countries gained independence from Britain in 1947, but both claim it in full.

Mumbai, a metropolis of about 17 million, has been hit by a series of bomb blasts in the past decade.

More than 200 people died in a string of bomb explosions in Bombay in 1993 for which authorities blamed the city's underworld criminal gangs.

Police in the Indian capital New Delhi said they were on the lookout for more violence.

"We have mobilized our entire forces who are conducting checks to all areas such as buses, bus stops, interstates and religious institutions," said Shukla, deputy commissioner of police for South Delhi, told Reuters.

DepEd urged to focus on abstinence, not contraception

By Khaliah Plaza

FOCUS ON ABSTINENCE AND CHASTITY instead of contraception and pre-marital sex.

An academic of the University of Asia and the Pacific (UAP) made this suggestion in the Department of Education (DepEd) on the controversial sex education courses in public schools.

The UAP is reportedly allied with the ultra-conservative Opus Dei.

Antonio Tornilla, Dean of the UAP College of Arts and Sciences, said that he was "looking saving" with sex education in public schools. However, there should be less focus on contraception and pre-marital sex, he said in a press conference yesterday.

"Sex education in public schools is limited to only sex. But sex education is not just a matter of contraception. It's educating the heart in affection and true love," said Tornilla, who submitted his/her to back out read the new lesson plan for the sex education courses.

Based on past lesson plans, he said, DepEd was "not going forward enough."

"DepEd should talk of, and put more emphasis on sexuality within the framework marriage. The focus should be on the dignity of sex, abstinence, chastity, preserving and preparing yourself for marriage... and that regularly till exists," Tornilla said.

Pre-marital sex

He added that it was still the main responsibility of parents to educate their children about sex.

According to Dr. Lolita Andrada, director of DepEd Bureau of Secondary Education (BSE), who is only the editorial board of the lesson plan, DepEd is not promoting and will never promote pre-marital sex.

"What we should develop in the students is the capacity to say no to teen sex or pre-marital sex," Andrada said.

She added that sometimes in the lesson plan on "promoting safe sex" was "causing confusion" because it would appear that the DepEd was "technically or directly promoting pre-marital sex."

Andrada said they would be revising the section, as well as other sections that were easily misinterpreted.

Tornilla said that schools, together with the private sector, had already embarked on a nationwide campaign to inform students on life choices, including issues on relationships and pre-marital sex.

The program, "I Am GUIDANCE: (Genuine, Understanding, Respectful, Open-Minded, Noble, Caring)," is a two-day seminar for high school students and their mothers.

Among the topics for discussion are freedom and responsibilities of the youth, building good friendships and relationships with the opposite sex, and career choices.

"The problems of the youth are serious. So people in the private sector are helping. Students need to hear what is right and wrong," Tornilla said.

Rains critical to Lafayette test run, execs say

By Blandie S. Rivera

THE RAINS WOULD BE CRITICAL IN DETERMINING the efficiency of the environmental control mechanisms put up by Lafayette Mining Ltd. during its 30-day test run, an official of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said yesterday.

The impact of the volume of rainfall in Rapu-Rapu, Albay, which hosts the P1.4-billion Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project, would reveal the stability of the dams and other structures that were enhanced by Lafayette as a precondition for the test run.

"The rains will tell [us] whether there's anything more we can do for," Mines and Geosciences Bureau chief Michael Cabalda said in an interview yesterday.

"The countdown is another seven (days) for us to begin," Environment southeast asia issues campaigner Jesse Dorotan said, warning that the test run wouldn't be the conclusion of the destruction that the mine will wreak on the fragile marine ecosystem around the island.

"To note: tailings and the inevitable acid mine drainage associated with the operation will continue to pollute the seas," Barongo added.

Peak wet season

Heavy rains had caused the second of two mine spills in the Lafayette mine site on Oct. 31 last year, pewing the dam's incapacity to handle a huge volume of wastes.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources had suspended Lafayette's processing operations for seven months after investigators showed that the company had carried operations when its dams were not built enough to hold more equivalent to 10 years of rainfall.

July has been dubbed as the peak of the wet season in the Philippines. Two tropical depressions have entered the country this month, with the weather bureau expecting more before the month ends. With a report from AFP

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Adventure GLX Diesel	761,000	75,000	61,000	42,000	32,000	26,000	17,000	15,000	13,000
Adventure GLS Sport Gas M/T	830,000	75,000	67,000	46,000	36,000	30,000	19,000	17,000	14,000
Adventure GLS Sport Diesel (4x4 auto)	910,000	75,000	73,000	51,000	40,000	34,000	22,000	19,000	16,000

Promo ends July 31, 2006.

3 YEARS

A1

'Batasan 5' again on watchlist

ACTING ON A LE-
tter from the De-
partment of Justice,
the Bureau of Immi-
gration yesterday
said it has again
placed on its watch-
list five leftist law-
makers facing rebel-
lion charges in con-
nection with their al-
leged participation in
an abortive coup
against the govern-
ment last February.

The watchlist or-
der against the so-
called Batasan
5—party-list Repre-
sentatives Satur
Ocampo, Teodoro
Casiño and Joel Vi-
llanueva of Bayan Mu-
na, Rafael Mariano of
Anakpawis and Liza
Maza of
Gabriela—was re-
newed Friday by Mi-
gration Commissio-
ner Roy Manero.

In a result of the
watchlist order, the
party-list congressmen
will need to first secure
a clearance from DOJ
before they could
leave the country, Ma-
nero explained.

On June 24, Ocam-
po, armed with a per-
mit from the Makati
regional trial court,
was allowed to go on a
trip to Switzerland,
where he attended a
United Nations human
rights conference. But
DOJ before immigra-
tion authorities acted to
stop him from leaving.

Immigration authori-
ties at the airport initial-
ly refused to let him
board his plane because
of a hold-departure or-
der issued by the Ba-
tasan. But after being

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2 expert lip readers solve Zidane head butt

From page A1

THE HEAD BUTT THAT WAS SEEN AROUND THE WORLD: France captain Zinedine Zidane (left) heads straight for Italian Marco Materazzi during the World Cup 2006 final between Italy and France at the Berlin Olympic Stadium. REUTERS

Materazzi had uttered to France's Zinedine Zidane just before the French captain gave the Italian defender a brutal head butt in Sunday's World Cup final.

With Italy and France tied at 1-1, more than a billion people watching soccer's biggest spectacle on television around the world were amazed when Zidane suddenly floored Materazzi with a head butt to the chest in the 110th minute.

The French captain was sent off with a red card, ensuring a penalty shootout in which Italy would have been expected to score one of his team's five spot kicks. Italy went on to win the shootout, 5-3, and its fourth World Cup title.

Exhaustive study

To get to the bottom of the controversy, The Times newspaper hired Janice Ross, a renowned lip reader frequently summoned as an expert witness in criminal trials in Britain, to study a tape of Sunday's match.

"After an exhaustive study of the match video, and with the help of an Italian lip reader, I can now reveal that Materazzi called Zidane 'the son of a terrorist whore' before adding 'to just f*** off' for good measure," the newspaper said.

The Daily Mail on Tuesday said that it had also engaged the services of a lip reader who reached the same conclusion as Ross. The British newspaper did not identify the lip reader.

The Brazilian television channel Globo had a different account. Zidane's memory of material in his last match before retiring may have been provoked by Materazzi who called the French star's sister a prostitute.

Fantastico, a program on Globo, also employed expert lip readers who said footage of the incident showed the Italian defender uttering Zidane's sister.

Materazzi version

An Italian newspaper, however, reported on Tuesday that Materazzi had acknowledged that he "insulted" Zidane because, according to the Italian stalwart, the French captain was super arrogant.

"I held his shirt . . . for only a few seconds, he turned toward me and scuffled at me, looking at me with super arrogance, up and down: 'If you really want my shirt, you can have it later,' [Zidane said] It's true, I shot back with an insult," La Gazzetta dello Sport quoted Materazzi as saying.

Asked whether he had insulted Zidane's sister or mother, Materazzi said it was an "insult of the kind you will hear dozens of times and then just slip on on the ground."

"I certainly didn't call him a terrorist. I am ignorant . . . I don't even know what an Islamic terrorist is; my only terrorist is her," the Italian defender said, pointing to his 16-month-old daughter who was shopping area to him on the plane that took the Italian team back to Italy.

He also vaguely defined mention Zidane's mother, for me a mother is sacred," he added.

In recalling the incident at Berlin's Olympiastadium, the Corriere della Sera newspaper said that Materazzi let his collar when he was 14 and that he would certainly not have insulted Zidane's.

Zidane's agent on Monday said the assault on Materazzi was provoked by a "very serious" statement made by the Italian defender.

Racist remark

In Paris, the antiracism advocacy group SOS Racisme-Touche pas à mon pote (Hands off my friend) said it was investigating "several very well informed sources from the world of football" as saying Materazzi called Zidane a "dirty terrorist." It demanded that the International Football Federation File investigate and take any appropriate action.

Fifa, which oversees all soccer ranks in the World Cup, would not comment on the specifics. "This is a disciplinary matter now. I can't give any statements now," Fifa spokesperson Markus Siegler said.

Whatever it was that Materazzi had uttered, it was enough to infuriate Zidane, who still won the Golden Ball as the World Cup's best player.

"I know [a teammate] who swears to me things," said Alain Jacquet, Zidane's coach at the 1998 World Cup. "Unfortunately he would not swear himself. It's terrible to see him leave this way."

Zidane's red card was anything but unanimous. He was cheered off the field by fans in the stadium as the clash used international friendship.

In the 1998 World Cup, he managed on a fine Arabian opponent. Sitting out a two-match ban, he came back to score two goals against Brazil in the final. Five years ago with Juventus, he head butted an opponent in a Champions League game and received a Hamburger 05 after being sidled from behind.

Mixed reaction

The reaction to Sunday's outburst was mixed in France. President Jacques Chirac called Zidane "a greater of world football," Foreign Affairs Minister Michèle Alliot-Marie said Zidane's aggression act was unforgivable for its effect on children watching the game.

Most French, however, have forgiven Zidane for his savage head butt, according to a poll published on Tuesday.

More than half of the 980 respondents said they understood Zidane's anger, according to the poll conducted by telephone by CSA polling agency published in Tuesday's Le Parisien newspaper. No margin of error was given.

Adored

Zidane, whose parents immigrated to France from Algeria, became a proud symbol of a multicultural France and is adored in Algeria.

The lashing is nothing new to Zidane, who grew up playing on concrete in an impoverished immigrant neighborhood of Marseille, where fouls and insults are met with instant retribution.

"You can take the man out of the rough neighborhood, but you can't take the rough neighborhood out of the man," French striker Thierry Henry said after the final. Report to from AFP and AP

SWS: Dissatisfaction ...

From page A1

two quarters—from -38 in December 2005 and -23 in March 2006.

Except in Metro Manila

Net satisfaction scores for the President in the latest SWS survey was in all areas, except in Metro Manila where it declined further to a record low of -48 in June from -37 in March.

Mrs. Arroyo's net satisfaction rating in the Visayas rose to +2, from -12 in March. Similarly, the President's net scores in the rest of Luzon improved to -13 from -23, and in Mindanao to -7 from -32.

Mrs Arroyo's satisfaction rating was among the "worse," registering a -10 net satisfaction score in June among the 3 class and -22 among the E class.

Decline in ABC classes

But her net score declined among the middle to upper ABC classes, which gave Ms Arroyo a net satisfaction rating of -27 in June, the second lowest on record, following her -34 ratings in December 2000 and May 2005.

The SWS survey was conducted from June 23 to 26, using face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The survey had a margin of error of 3 percentage points for the national percentages and 6 percentage points for the area percentages. Rizki Pedroso, PIBI Research

New PSG...

From page A1

Baligit, who served more than three years as President Arroyo's chief security officer, is going to the Army's 2nd Division based in Tarug Hotel, where he will serve as assistant division commander.

Not known to GMA

In a phone interview, Baligit described Pimentel as a "very fine professional officer" with 23 years of experience in intelligence work.

Pimentel was recommended to the top PSG position by the Board of Generals and his barrys approved the recommendation, according to Baligit.

Asked whether the President personally knew Pimentel, the outgoing PSG chief said he did not think so.

Mr Arroyo will be present at today's ceremonies at the PSG headquarters marking the turnover of command.

From Pangasinan

A native of San Nicolas, Pangasinan, Pimentel served as reserve leader and Baligit commander in the Philippine Air Force Flying School in Fernando Air Base in Lipa City.

He held various positions in the Army, including chief of operations and intelligence branch Task Force 82, assistant MRGD, CSSG-MIG, Staff officer, Army chief Operations and Intelligence Division, Group Commander MICOM, MICEL, among others.

Pimentel served in Philippine Air Force Representative to the United Nations Command (UNC) in Tokyo and as Air Attache in Washington D.C.

At present, he is chief of the Office of the Ethical Standard and Public Accountability, Army, and chair of the Personnel Management Board, Army.

Many awards

Pimentel has received three distinguished service star awards, with three others pending approval, seven bronze cross medals and 24 military merit medals, among many other awards. He has also been an Outstanding Achievement Medal.

Pimentel is married to Lilian Ubilles and they have three children.

Storm Florita moves north

TROPICAL STORM FLORITA GATHERED strength yesterday as it moved north of the Philippines en route to Taiwan.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 85 kph and gustiness of 130 kph, Florita was spotted by satellite images at 740 km east of Aparri, Cagayan.

Weathermen raised signal no. 1 in Cagayan, Calayan Group of Islands and Batanes Group of Islands.

Metro Manila will be experiencing rains due to an enhanced southwest monsoon.

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Senga waited 2 hours, report AFP probers

To next page A1

Senga had issued earlier declarations of his reported unwillingness and supposed yesterday his acceptance of the meeting with Brig. Gen. Eduardo Ano, commander of the reach Prime Scout Ranger Regiment, and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin on the night of Feb. 23, Fleet probers told the judge.

"I already said that to one meeting, I told them that they should not push through with their plan," Senga told the legislator.

But Scout Rangers officers were reportedly strolling near messenger Lim to ask about his meeting with Senga.

Lim reportedly texted Maj. Jason Aquino, who was the Scout Ranger operations chief at the time, saying, "Sing coup-kero, no, panik (We talked, it was panic)."

'OK na si Senga'

In an affidavit, Aquino said Capt. Amy Bonifacio messaged him around 10 p.m. saying, "OK na si Senga." When Aquino asked what Lim meant, Bonifacio responded, by spelling, "OK."

The panel report said it took Senga two hours before he called his service commanders to a meeting after hearing from Lim about the plan to destroy loyalty in Mrs. Arroyo to arrest Maceda[illegible].

During that crucial interval—between the time Senga met with Lim and Querubin and his emergency meeting with his commanders—word reached other officers that Senga had agreed to the plan and that he had withdrawn support from Mrs Arroyo.

This timeline of the events of Feb. 23 and 24, which led Mrs. Arroyo to declare a weeklong state of emergency is based on the draft report of the eight-man fact-finding panel headed by AFP Inspector General Rear Admiral Isidoro Lopez.

The military has not released by official timeline of the events leading to Feb. 24. Senga has also not given his version of the events, other than his denials.

The Inquirer obtained a copy of the 20-page draft and unsigned Lopez report that was leaked last week, at the request that a video of Lim's declaration of withdrawal of support was shown over ANC-CBN.

38 officers, 27 EMs

The draft report indicated that at least, 38 officers—20 from the Army's Scout Rangers and 18 from the Marines—and 27 enlisted personnel may be ruled before a court-martial for plotting to oust Mrs Arroyo by joining the Feb. 24 protest rallies during the People Power anniversary on Feb. 25.

Lopez submitted an official 43-page report to Senga on Feb. 28 after Senga said he would act on the board's recommendations "as quickly as possible" but refused to release a copy of the report to the newsmen.

Palace caught flat-footed

Based on Lopez's findings, Malacañang was caught flat-footed by news that other units in the military and police were poised to break away from their Commander-in-Chief.

Mr Arroyo was scheduled to visit the Scout Rangers headquarters in Fort Magsaysay on Feb. 25.

But for the deadline stated in the report, Lim and Querubin declared their plan to Brig. Gen. Rodrigo Elardo, deputy chief of staff for intelligence, around 8 p.m. of Feb. 23.

Around 7 p.m., Elardo brought Lim and Querubin to see Senga at his office at the General Headquarters building in Camp Aguinaldo.

"They discussed the matter. Senga that they were disbanded earlier to May, Gen. Elardo, the three were junior officers who are planning to join the same protest action as the following day, Feb. 24," the report said.

The report said Lim and Querubin "informed Senga that they were and junior who would march in Edsa in uniform but with their firearms" muscles down and subtle those declare withdrawal of support.

Lim and Querubin reportedly also mentioned that Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco, commander of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force and Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, then Marine commandant, were part of the plot.

The report did not say how long the meeting lasted. But upon leaving Senga's office, Lim reportedly stopped at the Office of the Chief of Staff while Senga went to the CSAFP Quarters.

Senga set an emergency meeting with the commanders of the Army, Navy and the Scout at the garden at the CSAFP Quarters at 9 p.m.

Meeting delayed

He reportedly called up Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, around 7:55 p.m. and Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Jr. at 8:30 p.m.

The report did not say what time he called up Navy chief Vice Adm. Marco Maraya, who was hosting a dinner party for his Indonesian counterpart at the time.

Maraya, who is not mentioned or dictated in the report was correct, whether he waited nearly two hours after he talked to Lim and Querubin before he held an emergency meeting with the service commanders, Senga said.

"No, I called for a meeting immediately but they did not get there right away. And they did not come to at the same time so we had to wait for the others," he said.

Denials

Senga earlier vehemently denied in the Senate that he ever agreed to the withdrawal of support and he lead the withdrawal of support and he lead the withdrawal of support and he lead replace the Arroyo administration.

"That would never happen," he had retained.

According to the report, Reyes arrived at 9 p.m., Macleay shortly after and Esperon at 9:20 p.m. Maraya did not arrive until 11 p.m.

Their Senga broke the news about Lim and Querubin's disclosure.

"Report: revealed that the participation of the military and the police in the mass protest action should not be allowed as it might lead to a bloodbath of the coup he initiated," the report said.

Options discussed

"After they were briefed on the situation, options on how to prevent the [illegible] from being executed were discussed. One of the options was to talk to Brian Lim and Lt. Col. Querubin and convince the two not to push through with their plans," the report went on.

Upon Esperon's suggestion, Reyes and Miranda were called to the meeting.

Reyes arrived at 10:28 p.m. and mentioned the SAF would move. He reportedly told the group "the success of the march will depend on the CSAFP Chief-of-Staff's commitment and that there too-do not want bloodshed."

Maraya and Miranda arrived at 11 p.m. Senga reportedly asked Miranda if he could stop his men, and Miranda replied he is "for the Constitution and for the chain of command but will follow the will of the people."

Senga's order

Senga reportedly called Lim and Querubin who arrived at 11:30 p.m.

The two reportedly disbanded their plans. Lim reportedly also confirmed he had already made a signed statement of his withdrawal of support.

Then report said Senga ordered Lim, Querubin, Miranda and Franco to stop their plans. Lim and Querubin however insisted they could no longer hold their men back.

The following discussion reportedly took place:

Lim to Senga: "We are taken, hindi ko magkakapigil ang mga mga yan (I can't stop my men anymore)."

Senga: "I don't think so. Pano mangyari yan kung pinaniwala kayo ni [illegible] (How can that happen if you believed in him)?"

Lim and Querubin: "Sir, hindi tayo magkakapigil dahil may magkakasama ngayon. Sila pwede ihe leadership para ang tayong magkapatid."

Saving face

Lim blurted out: "Sir, hindi na kami pwede umatras. Mamamatay na kami ng malaki!"

Esperon: "Bahin' kayo kung ka ang mga malaki!"

Shortly past midnight, Senga reportedly gave his final warning to Lim, Querubin, Miranda and Franco.

"Now, plan ninyo, sundin ninyo through. Tell the rest of the superintendent while there is still time. If you do [push through], I will just give you one order, Go back to barracks. If you, you have drawn the lines of battle," Senga reportedly said.

The meeting adjourned around 12:30 a.m. of Feb. 24. Miranda, Lim and Querubin reportedly headed to the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio where Miranda called all Marine officers to an emergency meeting at 3 a.m.

Marine Col. Jonathan Martir reportedly heard Lim telling someone on the phone in consolidates at the Marine headquarters that Lim, Miranda also said he heard Querubin tell someone on the phone, "Wala nako ga tang d'ayuon. Okay na si Senga. Sinod na mamo si Senga dumating d'ayuon magbago angtuig."

'Neutralize'

While the Marines were holding a meeting, Senga convened a meeting at the AFP Wing Room around 1:45 a.m. to check the troops "and prepare to suppress or neutralize the power grab."

Present in the meeting were Esperon, Maraya, Reyes, Macleay, Maj. Gen. Pedro Balabagno Jr., the deputy chief-of-staff for operations (J3), National Capital Region Command Lt. Gen. Alan Cabalquinto (retired) and Col. Gaudencio Pangilinan, head of AFP Counter-Intelligence Group.

Lim in custody

Without Senga's support, the plan fizzled out. Miranda and Querubin failed to get the support of most of the other officers. Lim, summoned to his superiors that was surrounded by the Military Police.

Around 4:30 p.m., Lim was placed under the custody of the CSAFP reportedly upon his request. He has been restricted to quarters since then.

Shortly before dawn, news broke out to the media that the military had foiled a coup plot by Lim and Querubin. Querubin denied there was such a plot. Lim could no longer be interviewed at the time.

With a report from Miko Chino

Lim transferred to maximum security jail

To next page A1

video using force."

It was the first time that the Philippine Marine officer had spoken publicly about the video tape which was aired recently on local television.

Military officials said the tape was to have been aired in Nebraska to coincide with an alleged plot to kill President Arroyo in a coup with the supposed backing of Army counterparts. The attempt was also to have allegedly coincided with the Feb. 25 anniversary of the 1986 People Power revolution.

Lim refused to talk about the video, Lim later admitted that he formed Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and the other service commanders of the tape on the evening of Feb. 22. (Related story on Page A3.)

"I was told that (gen's statement," Lim told reporters after his second appearance at the NBI since the probe into his supposed role in the plot began in March.

Take what I said the first time ... there was no plan to stage a coup d'etat. There was no plan to take over facilities by way of arms and violence," Lim said.

"The video was an expression of my freedom, but it has no significance anymore because it was never aired."

Lim said he and his soldiers only planned to hold a peaceful march, "as guaranteed by the Constitution."

Lim also met with Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

In a statement, Lim's counsel Virgenio Senderos said his client had no intention of turning into a state witness.

Lopez report

Senderos said only a person who had committed an offense and had been charged could be a state witness.

"Lim has not committed any crime, and is not charged with any, so he can't be (a state witness)," Senderos said.

The lawyer said Lim had sought a meeting with Gonzalez because he had information on the so-called "Lopez report," which was leaked to the media a few days ago and which reportedly contained recommendations for Lim and more than 50 other officers and were to be court-martialed.

Silent Caringal

"Lim wanted the Department of Justice to conduct the probe into the unauthorized leakage, thus his request for a meeting with Secretary Gonzalez," Senderos said.

Col. Jonnafer Caringal, who was said to be the "mystery witness" standing behind Lim when the ground said his statement on video, has appeared in the NBI but declined to talk to reporters.

In a sworn affidavit submitted to the NBI last June handed by Justice Secretary Gonzalez, Caringal invoked his constitutional right to remain silent and refused to comment on the videotape.

"I should first be furnished a copy of the said videotape, which must first be authenticated in a manner provided by law, before I could make intelligible statements regarding thereto," Caringal, assigned to the 2nd Marine Brigade Station in Tagaytay City, said in his affidavit.

Following his appearance at the NBI, Lim was transferred under heavy security to the Taguig detention facility. He had been restricted to his quarters in Fort Bonifacio since Feb. 24.

The Taguig facility was recently renovated to house high-profile security detainees.

Reasons declined to give details about the transfer, citing "security considerations."

Authorities are apparently concerned that Lim's supporters might try to rescue their leader.

Another officer

Also transferred last night to Camp Capinpin in Tanay was Brig. Jason Aquino, former Scout Rangers operations chief, and another officer implicated for his alleged participation.

The Tanay facility is located inside the compound of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division headquarters. It had served as the detention facility of Erap before he was ordered released by the Supreme Court in March 2001.

Aquino, however, informed that getting charged in court would largely hinge on whether the rebellion succeeded or not.

"Pinas, an officer and his group who go against the Commander in Chief because they do not like the way the President runs the country, may do so but such is fraught with risks. If their move succeeds, then their action becomes legal. But if they fail in the terms of the new government," Aquino said, without mentioning Lim's name.

"If their move fails, then they will be the consequences," he added. "Stripped of legalities, it's a winner-take-all thing. Or in other words, a dangerous win-win game."

That was why, then AFP Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Hilel Y. Ramos and other officials who rebelled against Ferdinand Marcos, triggering the 1986 People Power Revolution, and then AFP Chief Gen. Fidel V. Ramos and other military top brass who withdrew their support from then President Joseph Estrada in 2001 were never charged, the senator said.

"They were not punished and so the government rewarded," he said, citing the axiom that "rebellion is illegal if it fails but legal if it succeeds."

"This is a dilemma in political science," the senator said. With reports from JJ Burgonio

'Genital injuries consistent' with rape

To next page A1

pected to resume her testimony—and her eventual grilling by the defense—after Fortun's cross-examination.

Very old method

In his testimony on June 29, Dela, another witness for the prosecution, also used the term "consistent."

Only was the medico-legal officer of the Junio Spartan Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City who examined Nicole on the morning of Nov. 3, 2005, some 33 hours after the alleged rape.

But while Fortun agreed with Dela on the nature of Nicole's injuries, she cast doubt on the findings of the Philippine National Police's crime laboratory with respect to Nicole's panties and the used condom found back-stuck in the genes.

The PNP Crime Lab concluded that those two items bore no traces of semen when examined—a point that bolstered the theory with the last accused Ulysses Suson, the grilled crime investigator Rainier Espiritu on June 22.

But according to Fortun, the PNP reached that conclusion using the Ouchterlony test, "a very very old" mode for detecting semen that's "no longer used in modern laboratories today."

She described it as "not reliable and not specific," and said "false negative results are common" using the method.

'Suppressing' truth

Defense lawyer Jose Justiniano (counsel for Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood) rose to object and told Dela that Fortun was "suppressing" according to the PNP Crime Lab report.

But Dimaano countered that forbidding that view from Fortun, the prosecution merely seized the court to appreciate that the method in question is "antiquated."

She said it was actually the defense that was "suppressing the truth about science" in trying to stop Fortun cross-examining.

Commenting on Nicole's first examination by the limbs that Orth had started, Fortun said she found nothing "consistent" with the fact that her right wrist and two thumbs on her left upper arm were probably caused by a blunt, rounded object, such as "a fingernail."

She said the could not easily tell what might have caused the bruises when examining Nicole's right knee for lack of additional descriptions in Orth's report.

Blunt force

Like Orth, Fortun said all these contusions, being genuine to flesh, were "recent," or sustained one or two days prior to Nicole's examination.

As to the genitals, Fortun said "The contusions on both aspects of the labia minora are also injury due to a blunt force, a result of forcible penetration of the opening of the vagina with a blunt object, most commonly of which is an erect penis."

Asked if there was a relationship between the type of vaginal contusions and the type of sexual organ, Fortun said such injuries were unlikely if sex were consensual.

This is because, she said, the woman would "angle or tilt" her pelvis in such a way that "it's the exception to the threat of secretary sic," and that the vagina itself would have "natural lubrication."

Such "normal" bodily responses "prepare [the woman] for intercourse, even consensual intercourse," Fortun said, quoting.

"It is typically absent in rape victims. That's why genital injury occurs."

Fortun also said the vaginal contusions might be in recent as those found on the limbs because, as Orth had reported, Nicole's hymen had "minimal ... tenderness"—or pain—when he conducted a internal examination.

Defense lawyer Francisco Rodrigo resumed his X-Ups. Chad Carpenter's medic several attempts to "penetrate" or sustained one or two days prior to Nicole's examination.

Rodrigo also asked why Nicole was being allowed to give an opinion "based on the opinion of other experts."

But Dimaano allowed Fortun to continue quoting from her materials, interrupting her only once to tell her to interpret the medico-legal report without making reference to the allegedly crime.

This was after Fortun had described the Orth examination in "consistent with the alleged circumstances" in which Nicole was brought to Orth for examination.

'Nonvirginal state'

Defense lawyer Antonio Bebras resumed his Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantis' trial to show that the 22-year-old Nicole might have had the injuries prior to the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

Bebras asked Fortun whether a woman with a hymenal lesions, such as Nicole had been found to be, could indicate that she was already in "nonvirginal state."

On had earlier established, through Fortun's reply that a hymenal lesions was consistent with [sexual] intercourse," even if such an injury was inflicted 30 days prior to detection.

Dimaano admitted, saying that a woman's virginity was immaterial in proving sexual assault, and that Philippine law even recognized married rape.

But Dimaano allowed Bebras's question to be answered.

Without mentioning names, Atty. says said that an attempt by any military officer to withdraw allegiance from the President and install himself as the new commander-in-chief would be a coup d'etat.

On the other hand, if the rebellion succeeded, the officer would become new charges and might even have a voice in the new government, he added.

"Then an officer who announces that he is withdrawing his support from the Commander-in-Chief cannot, by no fiber? Of course, he does," the statement's administration arm has said in a news release.

"When some persons or soldiers, he has the duty to obey his superior officers and he bound by the chain of command without which no army can exist. He cannot break from the order at will and do or not do as he sees fit."

Arroyo, however, informed that getting charged in court would largely hinge on whether the rebellion succeeded or not.

"Pinas, an officer and his group who go against the Commander in Chief because they do not like the way the President runs the country, may do so but such is fraught with risks. If their move succeeds, then their action becomes legal. But if they fail in the terms of the new government," Arroyo said, without mentioning Lim's name.

"If their move fails, then they will be the consequences," he added. "Stripped of legalities, it's a winner-take-all thing. Or in other words, a dangerous win-win game."

That was why, then AFP Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Hilel Y. Ramos and other officials who rebelled against Ferdinand Marcos, triggering the 1986 People Power Revolution, and then AFP Chief Gen. Fidel V. Ramos and other military top brass who withdrew their support from then President Joseph Estrada in 2001 were never charged, the senator said.

"They were not punished and so the government rewarded," he said, citing the axiom that "rebellion is illegal if it fails but legal if it succeeds."

"This is a dilemma in political science," the senator said. With reports from JJ Burgonio

Mar Roxas cool to LP-NP coalition

SEN. MANUEL "MAR" ROXAS II yesterday dismissed possible talks for coalition between the Liberal Party and Nacionalista Party as "total bullocks" floated by senators who are running for reelection in 2007.

Roxas indicated he wasn't aware of, much less interested in any talks for coalition between the LP wing under Senate President Franklin Drilon and the NP led by Sen. Manuel "Manny" Villar, Jr.

"I only read what was in the newspaper and I have not been to any meeting or discussions about that. So I think those are total balloons that will rise and fall according to the wind," he told reporters.

The senator, the party's executive vice president, said the possibility of the country's two oldest parties coalescing was merely the idea of some guys who are seeking another term in next year's mid-term elections.

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Sirs and Mesdames:

Quoted hereunder, for your information, is a resolution of the Court En Banc dated

6 June 2006

"A.M. No. 03-05-03-SC - Re: New Code of Judicial Conduct for the Philippine Judiciary. - The Court Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Philippine Judicial Academy, to REVISE the provision of Canon 4, Section 9 of the New Code of Judicial Conduct, as distributed to judges and court personnel, so as to read as follows:

Confidential information acquired by judges in their judicial capacity shall not be used or disclosed for any other purpose not related to their judicial duties.

The Clerk of Court is hereby directed to publish the above correction." Francis Santiago, J., on leave. (1135)

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OPINION

Door to nowhere

INCENSE WAS USED IN ANCIENT ISRAEL TO COVER up the stench of the burning flesh of sacrificial offerings. The Catholic Church's term is to synchronize the Kingship of Christ, or represent the Mass as a "new and perfect sacrifice," and to represent the prayers of the faithful wafting up on heaven. In the political sense, to incense something is to becloud an issue with rhetorical smoke to cover up a stink.

EDITORIAL Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye did the official incensing, after the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines issued its latest pastoral statement. "The government welcomes and positively with humility and sincere appreciation the moral counsel from the pastoral letter. The message offers many points of agreement and shared objectives between the government and the Church," he said.

We have to wonder, considering the overall tone and content of that pastoral statement, what those "many points of agreement" are. We can think of only one: the ambivalence of the bishops with regard to this year's impeachment complaints, which leaves the administration in the agreeable position of enjoying the status quo.

But what did the bishops say? In their statement, the bishops made two points that they asserted to be their "clear and unambiguous" position on impeachment. First, is "all sincerity we respect the position of individuals or groups that wish to continue using the impeachment process to arrive at the truth." Second, "we are not inclined at the present moment to favor the impeachment process as the means for establishing the truth." As they explain it, this is because the bishops have discerned that "unless the process and its rules, as well as the mind-sets of all participating parties, pro and con, are guided by no other motive than genuine concern for the common good, impeachment will once again serve as an unproductive exercise, distressing many citizens and deepening the citizen's negative perception of politicians—Left, Right and Center."

Clearly then, the underlying message is that the last impeachment effort in 2005 so debased and discredited our political institutions that the bishops have to consider if the country can afford more of the same. What would be required, in their view, for a credible impeachment effort would be rules that foster, and don't impede, the actual airing and deliberation on the charges, instead of legal gymnastics involving dates of filings and the manner in which the complaints have been drafted. Add to this their view that supporters of President Macapagal-Arroyo would have to examine the complaints on their merits alone, unimpeded by blind loyalty to Malacañang, and that the political opposition and other critics would have to set aside personal ill-feelings and even partisan interests, and the near-miraculous nature of what is required becomes clear. Ironically, these men of the cloth seem skeptical of such a political miracle taking place.

Which is, to be fair, something most supporters of impeachment have admitted all along. They see little hope for changes will prosper, but still cling on the hope that anything is better left to chance than with their cheerleaders. Defenders of the President seem to be unconcerned in any lesson in civics. Which is why Malacañang can praise their letting recalcitrant, in a sense, by the bishops. Moral criticism, if not backed by political action, can always be shrugged off or danced with faint praise.

Where House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, speaking for the opposition, asked, "If they favor (the) search for the truth but not through impeachment, then through what means?" he reflected a reasonable puzzlement over the matter. In trying to be unambiguous, the bishops have introduced a new kind of ambiguity. How, indeed? Senate investigations have been blocked. Proposals for an independent commission haven't prospered.

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles tried to be helpful: "The House or Congress is not a correct venue to find guilt or innocence. It's the courts that will decide guilt or innocence. It's the courts that will decide guilt or innocence, guilt, not Congress in an impeachment case because Congress decides, as a policy, whether good or bad, to remove an official," he said. Which means, for now, underlings can be charged in court, but the President of the Philippines can look forward to being immune from suit until 2010, and beyond political accountability with regard to impeachment. The truest meaning of "veto-vix," perhaps? Ha' ha', though can for the country.

The bishops opened a door to nowhere, and perhaps that is the most discouraging thing about their statement. It proves that the country is nowhere closer to a resolution of the crisis of legitimacy.

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Is Maynilad overcharging its customers?

Neal H. Cruz

Maynilad Water Services Inc. is desperately distressed financially that it is trying to clear its water consumers' Artist Fernando Soto of San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City, thinks so. He wrote to this column to complain about his water bills and to warn the public against overbilling.

"Yesterday, I received the MWSI bill for June 6 to July 6, 2006," he wrote, "with consumption of 63 cubic meters amounting to P1,362.34 (Acct. no. 3-1907-035). I was shocked to read this billing 'because, based on my daily reading since January this year, I have consumed only 37 cubic meters from June 6 to July 6, 2006, computed by deducting the 4,305 previous reading from the 4,146 present reading.'

What happened? The MWSI reading showed the same 4,305 previous reading but there was no present reading. Instead, the consumption was listed as "AVERAGE." And that average was placed at 63 cubic meters.

Luckily for him, Soto was toting down his monthly water consumption on a calendar, so he had proof of the overbilling.

"I went to the MWSI office on Del Monte Avenue to complain," he continued, "showed them my calendar. When they saw the calendar, they said 'mas average nila ang reading.' They asked me to pay only a partial amount of P700 and promised to ang dito sa billing' next month.

"My point of telling this to you is to advise the public to jot down their water meter reading every date so that they can check. Mandatory readings para di sila mag-consumption nila.

"Pantayan 'yung ibang mga nakatira sa mga di pa nakakabayad ng kanilang mga bills, kaya nagiging high ang payments nila o di kaya ang sobrang laki ang payments nila o di kaya ang sobrang laki ang consumers?

"Kung sa bawat consumer, tinggalgan natin ng P50 isang deposit sa bill, di makakapag-average ang mga tao nila. Siguro pa kung P200 or P500 bawat consumer ang deposit, e di mas malaki sana ang payment ng MWSI."

Is Maynilad Water Services Inc. as desperately distressed financially that it is trying to clear its water consumers? Artist Fernando Soto of San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City, thinks so. He wrote to this column to complain about his water bills and to warn the public against overbilling.

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As I See It

THE PASTORAL STATEMENT OF THE Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), refusing to endorse the impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is a model in fence-sitting. The Bishops have a stand for it: balakdilan, which means neither here nor there.

In its pastoral statement, the 124-member CBCP said the impeachment process would be an "unproductive political exercise" in determining the truth. At the same time, however, it said it favored the search for the truth behind Arroyo's impeachment and that it respected "the position of individuals or groups that wish using the impeachment process to arrive at the truth." Yet it added that "we are not inclined at present to favor the impeachment process as the means of establishing the truth."

What do you make of that? Appears like double-talk to me, so far as I can make it out, the CBCP favors the "search for the truth" but it does not favor the "impeachment process to get to that truth."

How then do the bishops plan to get to the truth? Impeachment is the only constitutional process left for our people to find out the truth. All other processes have been shot out by the Arroyo administration and its political lackeys. Perhaps the bishops prefer the truth to be revealed in "secret sessions" Or do they expect her to have an attack of conscience and self-everything in the confessional? There can never be an "attack of conscience" unless there is a conscience to attack, and the present Malacañang has none.

Perhaps the good bishops want a repeat of Edsa 1 and Edsa 2 where the erring presidents were both chased out of Malacañang, illegally, by a rabble. In the case of Edsa 2, the reborn of President Joseph Estrada pressured the impeachment process from arriving at the truth. And so the prosecutors walked out, illegally, and went to Edsa—which seemed to me to be a premeditated move—to achieve by violence (in the throes of rage) what could not be achieved by the constitutional process of impeachment. Is that what the bishops want?

Irony

Conrado de Quiros

THE POINT THING IS THAT SECRETARIAT Angel Lagdameo, head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, prefaced his explanation's stand by saying, "We want to make the CBCP position clear and unambiguous on the present impeachment plans." The last thing the wording of that position is is clear and unambiguous. It is in fact as ready and ambiguous a line given one to all sorts of interpretations.

Malacañang, in the form of Ignacio Bunye, immediately spun Lagdameo's statement by saying, "Its the matter of impeachment, we concur with the bishops that impeachment is not the current way toward change and truth-seeking. It is not the best political corrective."

The announcement of SOC also said something along those lines immediately after Lagdameo read the CBCP position: "The CBCP said etc. 'does not support impeachment as a way of re-validating truth.'"

I myself got a lot of calls and text messages from friends who were incensed by the stand the CBCP gives that its leadership has been wrested by progressive minds from reactionary ones, settled for this. I myself suspect the wrestling of the position, if not the position itself, is the product of such compromise as reflecting the remaining divisions within that body, and I myself believe the resolutions of its Bishop-Only Unit that Malacañang tried to buy off the bishops and think they succeeded in that assembly with some of them.

But what is the CBCP really saying, or suggesting, in this outlined and confusing way? The two paragraphs relating to impeachment go:

"We are undoubtedly for the search for truth. Therefore ... we respect the position of individuals or groups that wish to continue using the impeachment to arrive at the truth.

"But as Bishops, reflecting and acting together as a body in plenary assembly, in the light of previous circumstances, we are not inclined at the present moment to favor the impeachment process as a means for establishing the truth, for unless the process and its rules as well as the mind-sets of all the participating parties, pro and con, are guided by no other motive than genuine concern for the common good, impeachment will once again serve as an unproductive political exercise, distressing many citizens, and deepening the citizen's negative perception of politicians."

Well, the CBCP's reaffirmation of its commitment to the quest for the truth—which can't be overstated in this day and age—is welcome news than the truth about the 2004 elections—indicates at least that the issue about GMA's legitimacy has not been settled in the bishops' minds. The CBCP continues to support every effort to find out that truth, as stated by its various instances, such as those taken by Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez et al. to impeach GMA.

The operative phrase in the second paragraph is "in the light of previous circumstances." After the CBCP rejects it as not impeachment per se but the kind of impeachment we have been treated to in the past and we are bound to be treated to in the future. That is, Congress canvassing impeachment with the requested results. That process won't establish the truth. That process can only be an unproductive political exercise, which will deepen the public's already deep distrust of politicians.

Lagdameo himself made that clear afterward: "The CBCP will not support an impeachment process that will be the same mess as it was done before." In short, what the CBCP is indicting is not impeachment, it is Congress, albeit, for quite understandable reasons, in a veiled way.

Fearing just this, however, the CBCP may not altogether be exculpated from accusations of duplicity. At the very least, at a time when a scoundrel flock is looking to it for guidance, the least it can do is not confuse it some more. A clearer and more emphatic reaffirmation of the importance of morality in public life was due them. If not indeed a clear and more emphatic statement about the need to resolve the legitimacy of government.

Not even close. Not that, as friends of mine have argued, candid? The bishops have helped to guide the mixed sets of the participating parties toward a genuine concern for the common good, or at least a fear of God or the faithful in next elections, precisely by supporting an impeachment bid in Congress? Couldn't the collective voice of the bishops have been brought to bear on the compromise to rethink their allegiance to Malacañang rather than to God by suggesting that God will not look kindly on those who help to perpetuate the hollowness? The bishops' support for impeachment might not guarantee a change of heart among congressmen, not least because many of them have no hearts to change, but life offers no guarantees in any case.

And still more than this, if the CBCP is not supporting the kind of impeachment process we have to establish the truth, what efforts is it supporting by way of accomplishing that? Or should we say, what specific directions and actions about the separation of Church and State, if you're going to talk about matters of faith and morals in public life anyway, why not bring the subject to a head? It cannot be coincidence to the bishops that the same burning issue in the minds of the faithful is: What do we do about someone who steals the vote? The way the CBCP has answered is open itself up to charges that it's basically saying, "Subalit na lapa dapat. Ma eschatos can't be a thing about it," Or worse, "Pantayan na, ang mahal mo'ng pera."

This is the darkest irony of all. The bishops worry that by going through another unproductive political exercise we will only encourage the public to distrust politicians some more. They should worry that by taking the wishy-washy position that they have, they will only encourage the unscrupulous to distrust the clergy some more.

Used and dropped quickly

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

THE DRAMATIC LAST WEEK OF THE FEID showing Rep. Gen. Danilo Lim declaring his withdrawal of support from President Macapagal Arroyo has revealed a lot more secondary conspiracy to grab power than what the government had presented while she declared a state of national emergency last Feb. 24.

The unveiling of the conspiracy unfolded after the declaration (1) forced some participants in the conspiracy to reveal theirs; it (2) led some persons close to the military planners to disclose to the press details of the conspiracy.

The administration has no reason to claim that the coup plot justified the proclamation of national emergency. The unveiling of a wider conspiracy that included supporters in business shows that the administration's reason on a very fragile foundation. The video recording in Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's office of Gen. Generoso Senga, AFP J3, admitted to Brig. Gen. Gregorio Cendaña of NBC-4, and Lt. Col. Lito Abad, who were all tagged by Defense as some of those involved in the plot, its seems to feel that he had been used and that while the plot was discovered, he was left retaining in the mind to lure the conspirators. They all have already been punished and denied any kind of involvement, including Cendaña, to whom credit in NBC-4 the tape was reportedly sent by Lim in the presence of witnesses. Cendaña has at capitol whether he was just an unwitting dupe in the arresting lieutenant Lim in the middle.

Sherman Paruganan, a colleague of Lim in the 1986 bloody coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino's government, told Lim's predicaments extremely. He told the business Lim was "used and dropped" and that "they [Lim's predicaments]

Making RP a vassal of Vatican

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has lost the moral ground to lecture local Church officials against engaging in politics when, in her visit to the Vatican, she pressured Pope Benedict XVI last month for constitutional change.

The Pope has a dual role: as head of state (the Holy See) and as a religious leader, that of the Catholic Church. The President made the Philippine appeal as a vassal of the Vatican when she presented to the Pope her pregant for Charter change which is a political matter. As a foreign state, the Vatican has nothing to do with the internal affairs of our country. As a religious leader, the Pope was right in not making any comment on the issue of amending our Constitution in accordance with the Vatican policy of staying away from politics.

President Arroyo was quoted by the local press as saying that the Pope was "very appreciative of our policies." In saying this she apparently was trying to make it appear that the Pope had blessed her political agenda, including the plan to shift from the presidential to the parliamentary form of government. The Vatican media, which steered exclusively the Pope's reception of the President and her entourage (no even media were excluded from the meeting), did not mention any papal benediction of Ms Arroyo's "policies."

President Arroyo should always remember that in her foreign trips she represents the entire Filipino people. She should not make the Filipinos appear subservient to or dominated by any foreign government, in the sense she should always uphold our dignity as a people. Without dignity, there cannot be any redemption.

—MANUEL E. ALMARIO,
mfalmario@yahoo.com

A small man with a big heart for the masses

I WAS IN THE GROCERY WHEN a friend broke the shocking news. Antero Llamas, former New People's Army commander, National Democratic Front consultant and Bayan Muna's founding member and director for political relations, had been murdered. I felt numb. Antero, chieftain of the roaring people, at the image of a short, dark, authentic, jolly man with a boisterous laugh, flashed in my mind. The person I respected the most, my greatest teacher and dearest friend, was gone, brutally killed.

Ka Teroy and I met during his Bayan Muna days in 2005. He became very close friends since then. I served as his researcher-writer. Soon enough, I became his confidante and official biographer.

Last May 2, he was in Manila, along with two partners, for a business transaction. (He was into the scrap metal industry, where he would engage himself in tenured labor, picking up anti-drink cans on the street.) He was on his usual cheerful self. He spoke of his plans for his business, of becoming a university professor and of his life story turned into a movie.

Then his face turned grim, he was dismayed and alarmed that the government had included his name in its list of "terrorists of the State." He said, "I have long tried to establish my legal status." Ka Teroy had resigned from the underground and lived a civilian life. "Now, they're resurrecting old cases against me. What more do they want?" he asked.

Ka Teroy said he was constantly under military surveillance. When asked why he refused to keep bodyguards or carry guns for protection, he replied, "I'm old. I have done what I could to serve my country well. I'm ready to die anytime, and if I die, make no mistake, the government is behind it. It is the only one with the motive—revenge!"

Ka Teroy was a celebrated NDF, communist-party and comrade. His contributions to the leftist movement were enormous. He never incurred blood debts. He was one of the 100% leaders who did not participate in the Operation Missing Link. He helped numerous people in and out of the movement. He was a decent and devoted family man. Thirty-three years of service left him with an unsullied reputation.

There was no reason for the Communist Party of the Philippines—its military, the CPP-NPA—its political wing, to gun Teroy until a suicidal act. The claim of the military and police that the death squads of the CPP are hitting its own ranks is not credible. The government had better come up with a more sound and logical propaganda.

Yet, vehemently condemn this one more act of cowardice by anti-Left elements who cannot face us fair and square. We demand justice for Ka Teroy and all other victims of extra-judicial killings. The state must put an end to this political genocide in the country.

Ka Teroy left a legacy of an selfish commitment to serve the people and a friendship to cherish. I shall never forget this very special little man who had a very big heart for the Filipino masses.

—JANICES. CARREL,
Bayan Muna-KPMDBoard,
janice_zarabel@yahoo.com

LGU welcomes help of League of Corporate Foundations

IT PLEASED ME TO READ THE business report on the league of Corporate Foundations. (PDI, 7/9/06) I am a public servant whose current duty is to see all the resources of the local government for the benefit of its constituents, specifically in the fields of infrastructure, health and nutrition, livelihood, education, etc.

I believe that the income is well aware of our people's plight and the difficulties and challenges our municipal government must face in our desire to deliver the basic services to our people. We are a community of 30,000 people, spread out in 11 barangays.

I write to commend the entire [illegible] using commitment of the LCF to lend a hand to our people in their effort to achieve progress and development for their country and families.

—SADIA D. ABDILTAIB, JR.,
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blackberry.net

LETTERS

Is Ombudsman really serious about her job?

I READ WITH KEEN INTEREST the business's July 22 banner story which was headlined "Why single out Arroyo?" Indeed, why single out this election commissioner for the P1.3 billion anomalous purchase of election counting machines from Mega Pacific? Considering the gargantuan amount involved, I'm sure money "changed hands" as bribes.

As a former member of Transparency International and an international anti-graft convention at the Asian Development Bank some time in the middle part of the 1990s, I learned from the delegates of "clean" countries like Finland, Sweden and Hong Kong, that they have effective laws on the forfeiture of ill-gotten wealth. According to these delegates, before they file any criminal or administrative case against public officials accused or suspected of corruption, they first seize their assets and forfeit them in favor of the government.

If the Ombudsman is serious about her job, she should do the same, so that the Comelec officials involved in the Mega Pacific deal cannot use their ill-gotten wealth to fight the government by hiring good lawyers, bribing investigators, prosecutors, judges and justices (in the event that they are convicted) the parole officials of the Department of Justice.

I also challenge our legislators, if they are really serious in fighting graft and corruption in the government, to give more teeth to our laws on forfeiture and on the freezing of assets of corrupt officials (as their counterparts in progressive countries have done or are doing), so that there will be more public money to help our poverty-stricken people and to encourage foreign investors.

—PERCIPIO S. BELTRAN JR.,
2810 Juan Luna St.,
Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila

Likening Pacman to a hero

I WOULD LIKE TO correct Kristine Vasco, PDI, 7/7&9/06) Manny Pacquiao does not make predictions regarding his fights, unlike Oscar Larrios who swears he knocks him out by the second round.

And Pacquiao never claimed himself to be a hero. It is his countrymen, in fervent admiration of him, who likes him as a hero. During his fights, he unites Filipinos from all walks of life.

If Pacquiao has not contributed anything to improve our economy, it's economy—how about him?

—ARCELIT
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Buffer zones separate rebs, militias

COTABATO CITY—A COMMITTEE MONITORING a truce between the government and separatist guerrillas in Mindanao started establishing what it said were demilitarized buffer zones to separate warring rebels and local militia units in three towns in Maguindanao province.

The shelter here caused in the towns of Datu Unsay, Mamasapano and Datu Piang, giving government and non-government relief organizations the chance to reach out to families displaced by the fighting.

The truce became battleground for the rebels and militiamen loyal to the province's governors and mayors.

The buffer zones were part of an agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities.

The two panels met with officials of an International Monitoring Team Sunday. The team was composed of Malaysians and Brunei personnel.

The joint ceasefire committee and the Malaysian-led IMT headed by Malaysian Gen. Mahlawati Sobarin, had succeeded in separating the rebels and militiamen in Shariff Aguak, Datu Unsay and Mamasapano by establishing a border.

This was only of the measures discussed by the ceasefire committee and the IMT to stop the clashes that had displaced almost 50,000 individuals in Maguindanao.

Military officials gave assurances that the militiamen will abide by their peacekeeping measures on condition that the rebels would not provoke new clashes.

Gen. Raimundo Santos, chair of the government's ceasefire committee, said the buffer zones will provide the villages caught in the crossfire from the MILF and militiamen.

In return, the local arrangement would be religiously followed by both sides, non-government organizations involved in monitoring the truce, the agreement between the government and MILF were also allowed to observe the buffer zones.

The clashes in Maguindanao were triggered by the June 23 bomb attack against Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan that left seven people dead.

Government military sources pursuing the MILF field commanders believed to have masterminded the bomb attack, the ARG against Governor Ampatuan.

While the mediators in place, Santos said the ceasefire committees and IMT's were only to supervise the displaced families to return to their homes for fear that clashes could again erupt. Edson Alexander, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Bailey Gabudi Dax, secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said most of the refugees still refuse to return to their homes for fear that clashes could again erupt. Edson Alexander, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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ROUNDUP

2 Indian nationals rescued

CAMP GUIMBA, Pampanga—Police and today rescued two kidnapped Indian businessmen and arrested five suspects in Mabalacat town. Chief Supt. Ismael Rubinos, Central Luzon police director, said brothers Francis and Sandy Singh, aged 23 and 26, were rescued as the suspects transferred them to another safehouse. Rubinos said operatives, led by regional police intelligence chief Senior Supt. Victor Inbaquiro and Angeles City police chief Senior Supt. Petronilo Maglaya, stopped the Hyundai car in which the suspects and the victims were in traveling along Barangay Camachile in Mabalacat at around 3:30 p.m. The suspects, identified as Armando Mendero, Alberto Lagalbario, Romulo Jacinto, Eddie Lamug and Agosto Garbo, did not put up a fight. They demanded P300,000 for the release of the Singhs, who were kidnapped at 9 a.m. on Thursday in their house in Angeles City. Sandra Aragon, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Drug addict kills mom

LUCENA, Quezon—A 49-year-old woman was hacked to death allegedly by her son-in-law after she refused to give him money for cigarettes in Barangay Lingga here on Sunday, police said. Lolita Santiago was hacked in the head with a police baton, locally known as "karit" or "tnk," by Ulises Santillan, 40, reportedly a drug dependent, police said. The suspect did not stand a new cigarettes and broke his vow. He is now detained at the city jail and is facing parricide charge. Carmela Lopez, PDI Central Luzon Desk

3 murder suspects held

ROXAS CITY—Police on Monday arrested two suspects for the killing in Mambusao town of Barangay Lo-Ong, Roxas City. The two were identified as Jaybert Abrea, 29, of Sara town in Iloilo and Bernard Lamsen Lumapas, 32, of Maayon town in Capiz. A team composed of Sara and Roxas police units arrested the two who were sleeping in the house of one Elly Saavedra. They were brought to the Sara police station to face charges for allegedly killing Parmon Dulcamara, 74, and his wife Marilyn, 73, inside their home in Ilihin Barangay, Sara on July 9. The couple suffered gunshot wounds and bullet wounds. Investigator Insp. Bienvenido Inciong Jr. the killing, police said. Arias admitted that he and Lumapas were arrested when the couple were slain but denied any participation in the crime. He said their two other companions were the ones who planned and killed the spouses. Felipe Calixto, PDI Visayas Bureau

Crocodile bites boy

CORNADO CITY—A 13-year-old boy was rushed to a hospital here after a crocodile bit his right arm while he was playing with it inside a residential compound in Barangay Green Subdivision, Barangay Rosary Heights VIII on Saturday. Police Officer Jose A. Estrella II said 13-year-old Jason Pamonag, a Grade 7 pupil of Rosary Heights VIII Elementary School, was alone when he took the crocodile by dragging it across and at the Agoday

premises, located near the school, Rosary Heights Barangay Chief Gaudio Rosal said. In his second attempt, the crocodile snatched the boy's arm, prompting him to cry for help and it took another boy to help. Rosal said, quoting the victim's friends, "We were not aware that a crocodile exists in that house. It poses a danger to the [elementary] school children." Rosal said. Romeo Mercier, Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau director in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the crocodile is known to habit in the area and has violated the law on wildlife protection. Under RA 9147, citizens are prohibited from catching, caring for and domesticating wild animals and birds. Neighbors said the crocodile was left around when the boy was attacked. Charlie Calisa, PDI Mindanao Bureau

ARMM workers' demand

COTABATO CITY—Workers' groups have been pressing for a P125-across-the-board increase on hotel workers in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and were asking for a P120-P200 daily wage increase and some non-wage benefits, according to Lilian Flavh Calumbian, secretary of the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board. Private sector employees in the ARMM receive a minimum wage of P100 per day. "There was no opposition from the employers' side," Calumbian said. She said the board would come out with the decision anytime. The entire Tagalog-run management representative of the Department of Labor and Employment, and the management sector were supporting an increase in other non-wage benefits such as insurance and hospitalization in addition to the wage increase being sought by the employees. Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Girl recovered from nannies

COTABATO CITY—Police on Monday morning rescued a five-year-old girl from the two nannies, who abducted her from their home in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat. The two nannies were also arrested, according to Supt. Nathan Rainsel, city police chief investigator. Rainsel said Sherlyn Sabanag, a resident of Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat, and Lilibeth Gangoda of Nunom Magsaysay, Tantangan del Sur, Sultan Kudarat were arrested to get back at the girl's grandmother, who had badmouthed them. Charlie Calisa, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Nursing test scandal sparks Baguio street protests

By Vincent Cabreza
PEI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—NURSING STUdents and their parents braved heavy rains on Tuesday to march against a perceived cover-up of alleged cheating during last month's licensing examinations for nurses here.

About 450 marchers stopped downtown traffic, carrying banners that pose the question: "Are we producing incompetent nurses nowadays?"

Among the marchers were representatives of the '91 nursing school graduates, who asked the Professional Regulation Commission to suspend members of the Board of Nursing until the PRC could determine who leaked the answers to the June 11 and 12 licensing examinations here to a nursing review center.

Mary Grace Lacsamana, chapter president of the Association of Deans of Nursing Schools to the Philippines, said the rally coincided with a PRC notice that a fact-finding team had started looking into their complaints.

But the complainants refused to testify before this body, until the PRC referred the matter to an independent fact-finding group, their lawyer, Cheryl Sayten-Sagsat, said.

Sagsat said they wanted the PRC to hold a transparent investigation.

Protests from top officials of the Philippine Nurses Association to suppress the complaints and contain the scandal compelled the nursing graduates to go to the streets to raise public support, said Lacsamana, the dean of the Saint Louis University's nursing school.

The PNA wants to avoid jeopardizing negotiations with the American National Council of State Boards of Nursing for a Philippine testing center that will allow nursing taking the United States National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), she said.

Deterrent mark for nurses is evident in the United States, but the NCLEX requires additional expenses for repeating nurses.

"But the NCLEx can come later. We must focus on our own problem(s)," Lacsamana said.

She said the alleged cheating revealed that the Philippine bar laws, requiring incompetent and unreliable professionals.

Cleaning up the licensing examination (tests) today will keep the nursing industry's reputation of reliability and efficiency intact, Lacsamana said.

Parents who joined the march are organizing themselves into support groups to help restore their children's faith in the industry, said Elisa Bontin, mother of one of the complainants.

She said her son graduated with honors and had devoted most of his energies to reviewing for the board exams only to have his faith shattered by the report of cheating.

NURSING graduates and their parents march in Baguio City to protest the alleged leak of board examination questions.

Fires destroy 2,800 has of Benguet forest areas

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE DEPARTment of Environment and Natural Resources' bid to protect forest covers in the province looked bad for the first half of the year as four major fires hit more than 2,800 hectares of forests and burned trees worth P34 million.

DENR officials said they were thankful for the onset of the rainy season as the weather had discouraged tinkhers and campers whom they largely blamed for accidentally starting the forest fires.

"The forest fires were caused by pyromaniacs and hikers who burned the debris piled from farming and agricultural activities in the mountains," Manuel Aspiras, provincial environment and natural resources officer, told reporters in a recent interview.

He said the four forest fires struck from January to summer this year in Kabayan, Tuba and Itogon towns, damaging fully grown trees, saplings, seedlings and forest shrubs.

Aspiras said the DENR had been unrelenting in its efforts to protect the province's forest cover, but limited personnel and the vast forested areas continued to hamper their hard work.

At present, he said, only 32 forest rangers cover an average area of 14,000 hectares of forest land each in the province.

Aspiras said preventing forest fires and addressing the lack of manpower were some of the measures that guided the DENR in tap in vigorous communities as local partners to forest protection and management.

The initial targets for the establishment of partnership schemes with indigenous communities, he said, were communal forests, watersheds and protected parks that host farmscribed by indigenous communities.

Aspiras said the DENR was conducting relocation surveys to determine the exact boundaries of communal forest in La Trinidad, Bokod, Itogon, Tuba and Sablan towns.

"We hope to place boundary markers for all forests in the remaining eight towns of Benguet by the end of next year," he said.

He said the focus of the co-management program, which would involve the local governments, would be the strict enforcement of forestry laws in prohibited and protected areas and the identification of forest portions where the communities would be allowed to cut trees and get their other forest needs.

To help forest rangers, the Department of Agriculture must provide horses to make them more mobile, said Lt. Winfield Councillor William Fordan.

"With horses around, forest rangers could regularly conduct forest patrols even into the deepest (parts) of the jungle," he said.

Aspiras said farmers in the towns should not pile their debris during summer as these had proven to be attractive for burning by climbers.

Editor's note: PEI Northern Luzon Bureau

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Life flows from Salinas salt springs

By Myleen Gaucan
Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya

WHEN WATER STOPPED FLOWING from the mounds of the Salinas salt springs in 1990, residents of the farming village of Salinas in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya, struggled to cope with the reality that the natural wonder, once their community's pride and the province's revered symbol, might have finally met its demise.

Through the years, they gradually accepted the loss after geologists confirmed that the springs had deteriorated because of tectonic movements of the Earth's crust, triggered by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that hit Northern Luzon on July 16, 1990.

Little did they expect that more than a decade after its "death," the salt springs will flow again to nourish the research and tourism life for them.

A 2008 geologic study commissioned by then Gov. Rodolfo Aghamil showed that the 1990 earthquake diverted underground water that used to flow into the springs. Since then, the whitish minerals jutting out of the forested mountainside in Sitio Banuing have gradually fallen into separate individuals.

The mounds were formed through millions of years by the continuous flow of a natural spring containing sulfate and carbonate salts, through a process similar to that of stalactites and stalagmites, according to geologists.

When the flow stopped, the minerals dried up, turned gray and lost the glimmer that had endeared locals so much that their forebears named the village "Salinas" (salt mines).

So instead of looking at coronation as a means for them plant to gain progress and prominence, the villagers, composed mainly of Ibaloi and Kalanguya natives, had to go back to rice and vegetable farming, and agroforestry for their livelihood.

But in 2004, the villagers discovered that water still flowed from the Salinas salt springs.

New life

The slightly inclined tract of land below the mounds is now home to some 50 fishponds, laid out almost like the rice terraces of Ifugao. It is from naturally flowing water from the base of the mounds to cascade from one pond to the next.

The fishponds have since provided an alternative source of livelihood for people in the surrounding villages.

Farmers in the arid villages of Banuing and Grasia used to plant only vegetables and rice. At first, they were considered the salty water from the springs a nuisance, as they believed it was stunting the growth of their crops.

In 2004, Gloria Mabunga, then Bambang Sobrunan chair of Salinas, thought of impounding the free flowing salty water and converting this into fishponds. Mabunga, 32, saw aquaculture as a profitable venture to raise funds for their youth organization.

"People in the community were taunting me about the project because they thought freshwater fish like tilapia could not live in salty water," she said.

Nevertheless, Mabunga and a number of teenagers went on to dig two rectangular pools to a depth of about five feet, filled them with the water and dispersed tilapia fingerlings into the pools.

Within the ISE members had their first harvest after only four months, Mabunga had proven the skeptics wrong.

Esteban Padiquet, 51, fisheries coordinator of the Bambang agriculture office, shared Mabunga's story. He bought a parcel of idle land in the area and converted it into fishponds.

"It was natural for us to bear negative comments about what we were doing. But when they saw how productive tilapia culture has become, others followed suit," Padiquet said.

About 20 farmers now own and maintain fishponds below the mound and organized themselves into the Salinas Salt Springs Fishpond Association. Membership continues to grow, according to Padiquet.

The fishponds raise in various sizes—the small ones are about half the size of a volleyball court while others are as big as a basketball court.

A species that was found capable of adapting to the salty water is the Nile tilapia. Oreochromis niloticus, which is said to grow as big as an adult's palm. Farmers buy tilapia fingerlings from the Central Luzon State University in the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija.

Best tasting

Bambang Councilor Rachel Magday-Sobrunan said tilapia harvested from Salinas were the best-tasting available in the market, primarily because these did not have the earthen taste. Cleaning period is common among tilapia grown in other areas.

"Consumers are now starting to look for that 'tilapia from Salinas' because it is said to be clean, and with the sweet that is slightly salty," she said.

Padiquet said the salt content of the water somehow hardened the soil on the pond's bed and this reduced most kinds of the pond and kept the water clean.

Farmers have begun introducing alaog or bubo (carp) and Adama Sinensis (catfish) (Clarias gariepinus).

"Our next program is to have bangus (milkfish). The trout broodstock source of Salinas has a salinity level of 11.7, which passes the threshold for bangus growing," Padiquet said.

The construction of fishponds is a welcome development, too, for tillers of rice lands below, as water regrounded in the dams serves those of your annual irrigation supply, especially during the summer months when water from the mountains becomes scarce.

"We have forged an agreement that when ever they (farmers) need to augment their irrigation for their rice fields, we will release water from our ponds," Padiquet said.

Luciano Beltran, 68, Salinas village chief, attests to the fact that tilapia aquaculture has greatly improved the lives of villagers.

"This is why we in the barangay council have set up plans on how we can sustain these projects. One important aspect of our efforts is the preservation of the watershed forest, in order to keep the springs from flowing," he said.

THE SALINAS salt springs, though forsaken, still never fails to give life to its people. NOEMI DICKSON

The gift of another chance in Baguio

By Elizabeth Lobregat
Correspondent

PAINTER ROMEO ROSETE did not discover art until he saw his sister Gloria, a medical student at the Far Eastern University (FEU), drawing human anatomy. He copied what she did and got so good at it that he became the artist of the Tarlac High School's campus paper. The Working Pen. With pen and ink, he illustrated short stories and editorials.

The valedictorian of the San Nicolas Elementary School, Rosete was a so-so student in high school. He found joy in drinking alcohol and engaging in quarrels.

His father resented him that nothing changed. Rosete would not be sent to college in the big city. Wanting to mend his ways, he enrolled in pre-medicine at FEU.

Before he reached his fourth year, the course was dissolved. He signed up for chemistry. He left. In with gangsters who skipped classes and drank alcohol. Rosete was sent to the ROTC (Reserved Officers' Training Course) classes so the next school year he could not enroll.

He told his father that he would shift to fine arts but did not tell him about not being allowed to enroll. Gloria came to his rescue, paying a semester's worth of the arts schooling.

He felt cramped in the advertising program. He wanted to paint. Teacher Danilo Ishiwa told him to follow his heart. "All the schools are the same. It's up to you to run your life. If you do not hone your craft, nothing will happen."

Rosete moved to the Philippine Women's University. He found the art materials expensive. He painted and won art competitions, bringing home from P5,500 to P12,000. The money went on art materials and drinks at the old Bobo House in Ermita, Manila.

Muse of Women's

He excelled in portraiture, landscape and abstracts. He joined his first group show with Rafael Cuti, Emory Sibayan and Ramon Orlina at the Wall Gallery in Ermita. The exhibit title was "My Bliss of Women's."

Rosete showed some photos of a signature/ culinary in Pasay City and called his series "Hipnah," a play on the word shamp.

He dropped out of the PWU but continued painting till he was asked to join the Center for Young Artists. With him were Antipas Delotavo, Edgar Talusan Fernandez, Cuti, Orlando, Sibayan, Ibrahim Rafiudin, Arthur Amorsolo and Jose Alonzo.

Rosete met PWU nutrition major Maria Magdalena Espeded and fell in love with her. They had no plans of getting wed because he thought an artist should not have a longings. He says, "But fools rush in." Rosete was 26 and Espeded, 20. They hid from her parents' wrath by living in with Rosete's relatives in Tarlac, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija and Isabela.

They finally got married at the Aglipayan Church in Isabela with his mother's old coins serving as arras and their unique rings as wedding rings. Espeded wears a stone brandwon. Rosete was in disguise.

Christmas cards

The couple returned to Tarlac. Rosete bought and mixed chickens, selling them to pay for his wife's delivery. In 1979, Romeo Jr. or Ombits was born. In 1981, Ximon Jose III or RJ followed.

To raise money for the baby's milk, Rosete made and sold Christmas cards for P20 each.

Cuti visited them and left watercolors and paper for Rosete. That made him paint again. His colors were dark as galleries referred his works.

Rosete then painted flowers. He left Tarlac for Manila with one-way transportation fare, lugging his paintings. If he was able to sell, he had money to return home. If there were no sales, he called up friend Lito Medina, who told him, "Stop into a taxi and come to my house. (It's under the car.)"

Rosete sold paintings to Maria Aicantara of the Heritage Art Center. Aicantara invited him to bring more works so Rosete had a steady income. Another baby was born. Ramiro Marjo. burst or Bambino. Despite the optimistic nickname, the period was one of hardship.

Painting with baby

Rosete painted with one hand while cradling the baby with another. His wife was doing the laundry. He balanced the baby on his knees and continued. If the baby woke up, the father put his brush aside and played with her. If the baby cried, he stopped painting. Once the child fell asleep, he took up the brush again.

In 1986, Christine Faye was born. Gloria built a house in Baguio City. Her youngest sister Lisa stayed there. Studio 8 was another house rented out to Rosete's family. He took a liking to the mountain city and left Tarlac to raise his family in earnest.

Gloria built a bigger house, and Rosete's family occupied the smaller house. The house was damaged when the 1990 earthquake struck. The family camped out on the streets.

Because classes were suspended, he kept his children busy with paper, pencils and pens. Before long his kids were honored art contests.

He did not want his children to become artists "because an artist's life is hard." Still, RJ enrolled in Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines Baguio and won a prize in the Petron art contest but dropped out.

Ximoben finished medical technology at the Saint Louis University, played relief's to the Baguio team in 2005, and teaches at the University of Baguio.

Rosete's works at a call center. He paints on the side. Faye majors in accountancy at the RJ. Romeo Orbeta is a senior at the Baguio City National High School.

Rosete dreams of recruiting a family show. But his children say his materials as their colors come out of his. "That's not good. The children should have their own palettes," he says.

THE AUTHOR, a University of the Philippines journalism graduate, lives in Baguio City.

ROSETE and one of his works

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GMA foes admit bishops' impeach stand a big blow

By Michael Lim Ubac

OPPOSITION LAWMAKERS YESterday conceded the refusal of the bishops to support their impeachment campaign was a blow to their efforts but said this did not mean that will be the end of the drive to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo over the issue.

The President's loyal supporters in Congress welcomed the CBCP statement, saying it knocked the moral basis out of the opposition bid to oust Ms Arroyo.

"It cannot be denied that their decision not to support us is a loss for now but this will not deter or lessen the determination of those pushing for impeachment," House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said in Filipino.

Bukidnon Rep. Teofisto Guingona III said the CBCP's refusal to support the impeachment proceedings "does not spell absolution for GMA (President Arroyo)."

"There is no escape for her. The smell will come out by all means. And she will be held accountable to the people," said Guingona, whose father, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., was among those who filed an impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

Only peaceful process

Bonifacio Rep. Boni Tiu Gotiong said the motive of impeachment proponents "cannot be sanctified to power."

He said those seeking Ms Arroyo's removal saw the impeachment process as necessary in the quest for the truth.

"The cancks are not the correct means for truth-seeking because an incumbent President cannot be taken to court."

Deputy House Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said the CBCP's stand to continue the search for the truth "but not through the current impeachment effort" was "understandable" as people "are frustrated with the political process."

"But what is the alternative? We welcome any process which will bring out the truth but lacking that process, impeachment is the only constitutional, legal and peaceful process," said Cayetano.

The party-list group Bayan Muna said the "CBCP stepped its back on the people" because its pastoral statement was "a virtual exoneration and endorsement of the shameful presidency."

'Real prophets'

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano said, "People power remains not only an alternative but a legitimate and peaceful recourse open to achieving truth and justice. With this, the real prophets will rise from the midst of the ordinary people."

Speaker Jose de Venecia said the CBCP statement calling the new impeachment process an "unprecedented exercise" put the House majority on a "high moral ground" to kill the impeachment drive.

"The CBCP statement has removed the moral basis for the new impeachment complaints against the President," said De Venecia.

House Deputy Majority Leader Antonio Cuelllar of Zamboanga del Sur said the CBCP's position was a "validation of the oil chances for the impeachment's success, with the opposition now left standing to face the supposedly unstoppable juggernaut that continues to push the multiple complaints."

Truth already known

Rep. Rodito Albano III of Isabela said it was a "mortal politi-

CBCP statement: From 'we reject' to 'not inclined'

Front page A1

3 BISHOPS AND A PASTORAL LETTER. Contrary to the CBCP's "rogue" position on the impeachment of Ms Arroyo, archbishops Antonio Ledesma, Angel Lagdameo and Antonio Tobias meet with other supporters' groups from different religious congregations at St. Peter's Church on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City on Tuesday. Story on Page A1 | INQUIRER

The pastoral letter signed by Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, yesterday said the sentence originally contained the word "we reject" instead of the phrase, "we are not inclined."

Iñiguez, who last month joined an opposition impeachment case against Ms Arroyo, said he opposed the original wording because it contradicted the prevailing statement, saying that the CBCP was "undoubtedly for the search of truth."

Like Iñiguez, the CBCP statement invited the faithful to objectively look at the entire, eight-page pastoral statement, particularly the two paragraphs devoted to the impeachment controversy.

The paragraphs noted that the CBCP was merely cool to the idea "at the present moment" primarily because of fear that the exercise would also be "futile," if not, "cultivated" like the previous one last year which fell by the wayside.

Right and Center."

In all, the statement said the CBCP deliberated on the impeachment—and reportedly the earlier eight-page document—for only two hours, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. last Tuesday.

Save for the item on impeachment, the draft presented to the body on Tuesday remained very minimal changes, he said.

The deliberation was relatively quick, reportedly compared with the July 2005 pastoral statement which went through at least three drafts.

The source said the speed was understandable since the rest of the social issues tackled were merely a reinvention of previous CBCP positions contained in the three previous pastoral statements.

1st pages theological

Definitely, the first five pages of the new statement were deeply theological, assiduously explaining where the bishops were coming from in coming out with their position on social issues.

In a way, it seemed they were taking pains to explain why they were talking.

The document was drafted by a committee composed of Bishop Francisco Claver, prelate emeritus of Butuan Lagunes, Archbishops Orlando Quevedo and Leonardo Legaspi, Bishops Chito Tagle and Pablo David.

Save for Claver and David, the rest were also involved in drafting the July 2005 pastoral statement.

Malacañang distributed cash to bishops; some bishops 'revolted'

Front page A1

two-tiered livelihood projects for his impoverished diocese.

Bishops used to donations

Asked to comment, CBCP spokesperson Msgr. Pedro Quitorio said: "We can neither confirm nor deny the cash offers. But in case they actually happened, we have always been open to quasi-charitable donations. Bishops are used to donations for their social programs. But some might be naive about the political-under-pinnings."

The CBCP plenary assembly, which ended on Saturday and Sunday, had been much-expected because the bishops were expected to deliberate and subsequently issue a pastoral statement on current political issues, including the calls for impeachment to drive against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The statement issued on Monday said the CBCP would not endorse the present impeachment process but would continue to respect the position of individuals and groups involved in it, and would not abandon the search for the truth behind the allegations against Ms Arroyo.

'Only what I earn'

The bishop, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the subject, said he made it clear to the Malacañang messenger that he was "used to accepting only envelopes that I earn."

He said he later learned from fellow bishops that they had accepted the envelopes each containing between P10,000 and P50,000 in cash on the assumption that these were benefit-performance or project proposals from the Palace.

"The envelopes were slipped into their pockets," he said. "When they returned to their rooms and opened the envelopes, they were surprised [to find money]. They said they would return the envelopes right away."

Another member of the CBCP told the Inquirer on Monday about the envelopes that had purportedly been delivered to the bishops.

One bishop posted at a diocese in Luzon yesterday said that some of his peers also received envelopes following a meeting arranged by a Palace official.

He said the envelopes contained plane tickets and a reimbursement of their expenses for traveling to Manila.

Monday to Sunday

Bishops began noticing the representatives reportedly of the Palace at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center on UN Avenue, Manila, as early as Monday last week, the eve of the CBCP's annual plenary assembly in Lingayen, Pangasinan, according to the account of the bishop who had immediately rejected the envelope offered to him.

From Monday until Sunday, the bishops saw the same "casual-looking" people lingering at the center and approaching prelates with envelopes at least once, particularly around noon and a little past 6 p.m.

The supposed messengers of the Palace said they had come to offer "livelihood" money for the bishops' respective parish-ioners.

But the offers were an affront to the bishops' intelligence and sensibility, the source said.

"The duty honestly believe that we would buy that?" he said, adding that he and his colleagues were merely being "polite and nice" to Malacañang's supposed emissaries.

Too small for projects

The bishop who rejected the envelope outright said that if the Arroyo administration were sincere in giving donations and providing livelihood projects, it should deal directly with the concerned parishioners or groups.

Besides, he said, the amount of P250,000 to P500,000 was too small to start livelihood projects for thousands of indigent parish-ioners.

"It seemed to me that [the money] was more for the bishops," he said.

The bishop also pointed out that it was the administration's "job to provide livelihood to the people."

"But how come it's being given only to a few when [fighting against] poverty is the main thrust of the government?" he said.

It seemed to him, he said, that Malacañang was trying to "bribe" members of the CBCP into "softening our position."

"Perhaps [Malacañang officials] think that once you receive gifts from them, you can't be critical of them anymore," he said. "But we were never influenced in our pastoral statement."

'That's ridiculous'

Michael Defensor, the President's chief of staff, merely laughed off the report that Gloria-calang had sent emissaries to personally hand cash to the bishops.

"That's ridiculous. I don't think that even deserves a comment," he said.

In a radio interview, Defensor said Malacañang had decided to give its donations directly to the bishops or to each diocese's Social Action Council, as suggested by governors, mayors and congressmen at separate sessions.

"They made the suggestion to prevent jealousies and to...fighting among local government officials and NGOs on the delivery of the government's donations," Defensor said.

In the same radio program, Archbishop Oscar Cruz said he preferred that the government concern its donations to "those who are normal as 'the money of the people'—through civic organizations to ensure that 'the bishops' hands are clean."

Medicines, rice, etc.

Dr. Esteban Dy, Parañaque Bishop Jesse Mercado called his peers' attention to the supposed gifts being dangled to them by the Arroyo administration.

He said the offers usually come in the form of cheap medicines and sacks of rice, noodles and similar commodities.

The CBCP source said he himself had received such a standing offer but continued to ignore it.

With a report from INQ, Carlos Conde in A.

Bishops pushing people to stage people power—Salonga

Front page A1

legal means for Ms Arroyo to answer serious allegations of electoral fraud, corruption and human rights violations against her.

"The President, through the impeachment, can defend herself from the charges hurled against her. It may not be a foolproof process because it's an imperfect human institution," Salonga said.

Threat of lawsuits

"But for all its imperfections, it's the only legal method under the law where the President can ventilate her side. If you close this avenue because of the official stand of the influential CBCP, there may be no other way open to the people than resort to people power," he said.

Salonga said Ms Arroyo was not inclined to resign to face the allegations against her squarely in a court of law.

"I can understand why Gloria-nos is very reluctant to resign. She will lose her presidential immunity and will be swamped with criminal suits," he said.

Referendum on GMA

"People Power is a last resort for many who are confronted by an exceedingly difficult situation," he added.

Monreal said Gen. Palparan is not the only target in the impeachment process but that repeated impeachment hurdles might be too much for Filipinos.

"The country cannot afford to have impeachment proceedings every 12 months without stemming urgent social, economic and electoral reforms," Monreal said.

"That is why One Voice is urging that the 2007 elections, if credible, be considered an indirect referendum on the political impasse, with our leaders accepting the vote of the people in congressmen and senators as their mandate, and its consequences, as we can move on," he added.

One Voice believes a peaceful exit by Ms Arroyo is also in Congress and to the local government would mean she enjoys the confidence of the electorate.

A defeat of her minions would mean lack of confidence in her administration.

A House of Representatives controlled by the opposition after the 2007 polls is supposed to represent the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo in the Senate for trial.

Other avenues

But impeachment complainant, Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez of Caloocan and fellow Bishop Antonio Tobias of Novaliches supported those might be other avenues for the people.

"If the constitutional means should fail, the desire to know the truth continues. The people will look for other avenues. The have to be ready for this," Iñiguez said in a forum at the St. Peter's Church in Quezon City.

"We should subscribe all efforts within legal means or we'll be forced by our conscience to look for other means," Iñiguez said.

Tobias said the CBCP statement was far from being an indictment of the impeachment process per se.

"Administration officials might think that our statement is favoring them. They might find themselves wrong," Tobias said.

He said the CBCP statement did not mean the bishops were abandoning the people in the search for the truth.

"We will not leave them in their struggle," Tobias said.

Asked if he, Iñiguez and Bishop Emeritus Jules Xavier Labayen would push for extra-constitutional measures to arrive at the truth if the impeachment process failed, Tobias said: "It would be the people who should move."

SALONGA: CBCP statement leaves people with no choice.

MONREAL: 2007 elections would be a referendum on GMA.

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

The Court of Appeals (CA) has just rejected the CB-BOL's plea to reconsider its earlier decision that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is bound by judgment as the sole successor-in-interest of the old Central Bank (CB) pursuant to RA 7653 and the transferee *pendente lite* because the CB had transferred its assets to BSP during the pendency of the civil cases. The CA had also earlier chided the CB-BOL for its deliberate delay in the restitution of Banco Filipino.

Republic of the Philippines
COURT OF APPEALS
Manila

FORMER SEVENTEETH DIVISION

CENTRAL BANK BOARD OF LIQUIDATORS,
Petitioner,

-versus-

CA-G.R. SP NO. 88087

Members:
GUEVARA-SALONGA,
Chairman
LAMPAS PERALTA, and
VILLON, JJ.

THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MAKATI CITY (BRANCH 135) and BANCO FILIPINO SAVINGS AND MORTGAGE BANK,
Respondents.

Promulgated:
JUNE 27, 2006

RESOLUTION

GUEVARA-SALONGA, J:

For resolution by this Court are petitioner's Motion for Reconsideration[1] of our decision dated 27 January 2006, the respective Comments of private respondent[2] and individual respondents Heirs of Jose B. Fernandez, Carlota P. Valenzuela, Arnulfo B. Aurellano, and Ramon V. Tiaoqui[3], and petitioner's Reply.[4]

We reviewed Our decision once again in light of the parties' arguments in the above motion, comments and reply. We find no plausible reason to depart from Our earlier disquisitions as the issues put forth have been exhaustively passed upon in Our decision.

With respect to **petitioner's Motion to Set Case for Oral Argument,**[5] a similar motion it filed dated 16 December 2005 **raising the same issues and arguments[6] has already been denied by this Court in its Resolution dated 18 January 2006.**[7]

The inclusion in the present motion of allegations as to private respondent's paid print advertisements in three newspapers **could not have changed the issues raised again by petitioner. The said motion is therefore likewise denied.**

Wherefore, the foregoing considered, the motion for reconsideration and motion to set case for oral argument are hereby Denied.

So Ordered.

Original Signed
JOSEFINA GUEVARA SALONGA
Associate Justice

WE CONCUR:

Original Signed
FERNANDA LAMPAS PERALTA
Associate Justice

Original Signed
SESINANDO E. VILLON
Associate Justice

Original Signed
ANTOLIN ALLYSON M. DARON, JR.
Court of Appeals

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THE JEEPNEY where police found the body of Virgilio Gabriel, a former San Mateo policeman who was killed yesterday morning. His attackers shot him 14 times, apparently to make sure he would not survive. RON LUMA

Ex-policeman dead in San Mateo ambush

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE killing of a 48-year-old former police-man who was shot to death by six men armed with 9-mm and .45-caliber handguns in San Mateo, Rizal yesterday morning.

PDI Virgilio Gabriel was shot 14 times, mainly in the head and chest. He died on the spot, Supt. Rodolfo Jimenez, chief of the San Mateo Police, chief Chief Insp. Antonio Ferraren told the In-quirer.

Ferraren said Gabriel, a former desk-of-fleer at the municipal police station, had gone AWOL (absent without official leave) nearly 11 years ago.

Huge debts

"His wife said Gabriel had incurred huge debts after he stopped reporting for work years ago," Ferraren added.

"We are already preparing a list of the people he failed to pay as well as those to whom he had issued bouncing checks," the police official said.

Ferraren said Gabriel had been borrowing money from many people even during his stay at the San Mateo police station, elsewhere, Ferraren said. They would also look at other possible motives.

According to Ferraren, the former policeman was shot while he was driving his jeepney at around 6 a.m. on Jesus Ramos Street in Barangay Ampid.

The victim's wife said that it was his habit to go jogging at Greenland Subdivision in the morning.

Stopover

Yesterday, Gabriel decided to drop by the house of a friend inside the subdivision.

On his way home, no men, who had apparently been waiting for him on the road, opened fire at his jeep.

The attack was so sudden that Gabriel was not able to reach for a .38-caliber handgun that he had inside his coat.

Though he was seriously injured, Gabriel tried to steer the vehicle away from his killers but they were able to stop and shot him repeatedly.

The owner-type jeep crashed into the door of a commercial building.

The six-armed murderer got on a motorcycle and fled, Ferraren said.

Gas station owner loses ₱3M to robbers

With no security escort, victim was easy target

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A GAS STATION OWNER LOST ₱3 million in cash and his van to robbers who held him up in Antipolo City yesterday morning.

Benito Pano, 66, the owner of the Caltex gas station on Marcos Highway, Barangay Mayamot, told the police that he went to the establishment at around 8:20 a.m. to collect earnings from gas sales.

Pano said he had just parked his luxury van at the gas station and was getting out of the vehicle when three men armed with .45-caliber handguns approached him and declared a hold-up.

They dragged him out of the van, got into the vehicle and then fled. Inside the van was about ₱3 million in cash which Pano had just collected from nine other gas stations that he owned.

Though he was carrying a big sum of money, Pano was alone. He had no security escort, nor even a company driver, to assist him, Supt. Fernidez Tabujara, Antipolo City police chief, said.

The robbers apparently knew that Pano was carrying a big sum of money and they had waited for him to show up at the gas station at that time, the police added.

Tabujara said he had been advising business and bank owners in Antipolo City never to transport huge amounts of cash without security escorts.

Meanwhile, a security officer was killed when he scuffled two armed men who were about to enter the bank of San Mateo in Barangay San Roque. Antonio Pe-lipe was shot dead by the suspects who escaped, said Tabujara.

THE CHORUS and Beers Bar in San Juan where six people were killed on Sunday night. VINCE CRUZ

Cops follow shooting spree suspect's trail

TWO SAN JUAN POLICE TEAMS chased and finally caught up with the suspect who single-handedly shot dead six drivers on Sunday night.

Lawmen already have a picture of Rusty Fong, 27, which they got from a police file in Muntinlupa City, where Fong had been jailed for alleged robbery, San Juan police chief Supt. Rodolfo Jimenez told the reporters.

"We already have enough documentation on the suspect. We have follow-up units ready to arrest him," Jimenez said.

Fong, allegedly target inside the Chorus and Beers KTV Bar on Ismaera Jimenez on Sunday night where a group of drivers were holding a meeting.

According to witnesses, Fong looked for the group's president Mario Hernandez. The two had an argument in the past after Hernandez allegedly molested Fong's girlfriend.

Fong then left the bar but returned with a .45-caliber pistol and fired indiscriminately, shooting "everyone who moved inside the bar," PDI Alexander Deduano told the reporters.

In the end, six drivers, including Hernandez, were killed and two were injured. The suspect escaped on board a white Mazda pickup after the shooting spree.

Jimenez said the two injured drivers were already "out of danger" as of yesterday and would soon give their statements to investigators. Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PNU prexy willing to reconcile with 'foes'

By Margana C. Driz

AMID THE CONTROVERSY surrounding his appointment, the new president of the state-run Philippine Normal University (PNU) yesterday vowed to improve the institution's situation, given its decreasing budget and other financial problems.

Newly appointed PNU president Lucgardo Batiles said he would oversee the further development of students and professional improvement of the staff through his programs, in a press conference yesterday.

On the continuing protests over his appointment, Batiles said he was willing to reconcile with the school officials who had resigned from their administrative posts when the Board of Regents reaffirmed their decision on his appointment last week.

"My will be normal to some in terms of teacher training," Batiles said. "But to do that, we have to accomplish a lot in terms of physical improvements and infrastructural innovations," he stressed.

Dr. Jimmy Sarela, a member of the Board of Regents which selected Batiles from among several candidates for the post said they praised him for his capacity to raise funds for the university because of his connections at the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Friends in Congress

Batiles, whom Sarela said was also chosen for his managerial and administrative experience in the management of scarce resources and resource generation as Eastern Samar governor for three terms, said he has already talked to some congressmen about improving the university.

"They [congressmen] are closely parted co-educator because many of them have made are also graduated from [PNU]," the new PNU president said.

University officials, under Batiles's watch, will also secure for the ratifying of a pending bill declaring PNU as a national university for teacher education.

No disruption

Batiles said that the protests have not hampered school operations in any way.

"I have extended a hand of reconciliation and even talked to many of the protesters. I did not become president to preside over quarrels and misunderstandings," he added.

SAMBO shows reporters a copy of the Board of Regents' decision reaffirming his selection as Philippine Normal University president.

METROBRIEFS

Airport cop killed

MALABON CITY policeman was shot dead by two unidentified men in Pasay City on Monday afternoon, police said.

Corporal George Tumaneng of the Manila International Airport police was riding his motorcycle along Roxas Boulevard, police said, when two men in a white sport utility vehicle (SUV) overtook him at about 1:30 p.m. Tumaneng, a motorcycle rider, fired two rounds at the SUV, which then sped away, police said.

Tumaneng was rushed to the Philippine General Hospital in Manila, where he died on arrival, police said.

Investigators said the two men in the SUV were also riding motorcycles.

Senior Superintendent Rodolfo Tor-quiano, chief of the Pasay City police, said Tumaneng was on his way to his duty in the airport when he was killed.

Jocelyn R. Uy

French woman robbed

WHAT was supposed to be a carefilled vacation turned into a nightmare for a French tourist who lost his belongings to a gang of robbers on Monday night, Valerie Rivas, 29, told the Makati City police that she met PHOTO in a cafe and the mastermind of her digital camera to the "Wisan Gang." The gang were thieves, acting in order their victims to come near the bars, robbing them. Here, who is staying at the Plaza Condominium at Salcedo Village, told the police that she was attending a party at the bar, Manila on Monday after hour when four women and a man befriended her and offered her to take her around Sapaldo on Roxas Boulevard. They later invited her to a house where she was offered food and beer. Here said she felt dizzy and fell asleep after drinking the beer. When she woke up, she found her belongings gone.

Jocelyn R. Uy

More incentives in store for Makati businessmen

By Tara V. Quimpondio

IN A BID TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION as the country's financial capital, the Makati City Council is planning to draft an ordinance that would give incentives to businessmen.

"Our goal is to make Makati even more competitive with the other cities by both retaining and widening our investor base," Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said in a statement yesterday.

According to City Hall, councilors have already begun discussions on the proposed investment and Incentives Code.

The proposed ordinance gives businesses in locality and exempts those from paying local fees like amusement tax. "The code will exempt firms from paying business and real property taxes for a period of three to four years. The city government is eyeing a 100 percent exemption for the first year of operation," said City Hall in a statement.

Listed as priority businesses are those engaged in information and communication technology, including digital animation and software firms; call centers; environment; tourism; health facilities; graduate schools; heritage and cultural projects; commercial centers; hotels and other tourism-related or leisure establishments.

DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW that the University of Manila was a branch of the persons aged 16 to 21 in 1913 in 1913 siblings Apolinario Mabini and Bonifacio Gaviles, with friends Buenaventura Valdez and Manuel Roxas in, through of building a school. They opened the institute at Manila once later in a rented building in Masonic. The school, which was relocated to Campus in 1948, now becomes known as the University of Manila.

PDI Research

UN Security Council defers vote on N. Korea

Awaits results of China's diplomatic efforts to defuse crisis over Nokor's missile tests

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN Security Council on Monday put off a vote on a Japanese draft resolution that would slap sanctions on North Korea over its missile tests, to allow more time for Chinese diplomatic efforts to defuse the crisis.

"Our time being we have decided not to press for a vote and to wait for a short while" while a high-level Chinese delegation is on a six-day visit to Pyongyang, Japanese Ambassador Kenzo Oshima told reporters.

In Washington, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also said the United States had agreed with its Japanese counterpart to postpone the vote pending the results of the Chinese initiative to the commander team.

A top Chinese delegation led by Vice Premier Hui Liangyu arrived in North Korea on Monday amid hopes the visit would ease rising tensions over last week's rants of seven missiles.

Rice said that the Chinese mission showed "some promise" and that Washington wanted to give it time to play out.

China has publicly circulated a nonbinding presidential statement to the Security Council as an alternative to the draft resolution presented by Japan with the backing of all Western members of the 15-member council.

Chinese Ambassador Wang Guangya said he transmitted his text in all his council colleagues, saying it provided the "best framework and the best forum" for a "unified" response from the Security Council to North Korea.

The Chinese presidential statement contains many of the key elements in the Japanese document, including a call on member states to block the transfer of items to North Korea that could be used in missile or weapons of mass destruction programmes.

But Britain's UN envoy Emyr Jones Parry said the Chinese document "just really didn't do the job" because "it did not support sufficiently robustly or actually what the premier threat is, indeed it did not recognise that there was a threat."

Wang said the key differences in his text was that he dropped the description of the North Korean missile tests as a "threat to international peace and security" as well as the draft's invocation of Chapter Seven of the UN charter.

Chapter Seven, invoked in cases of threats to international peace and security, can authorize sanctions or even military action.

"Those who work in the United Nations understand clearly that such determination and the invocation of Chapter Seven ... will cause serious concern to the Chinese," Wang said.

He said such a determination by the council would be "politically" and could be used in future by some "to take action which would make the situation even worse." In a veiled reference to the US-led war in Iraq.

"The Security Council has to take responsible, constructive and positive action," Wang said.

"We believe it (the Chinese text) provides an excellent basis for solving issues in Pyongyang," Russian envoy Vitaly Churkin told reporters. "We think what our Chinese colleagues have offered is the right mode of action."

Standing in Wang's nomination that the North Korean missile tests did not constitute a threat to international peace and security, Oshima wondered how Beijing would have reacted if those missiles had been directed at Chinese territory. AFP

Olmert defends Gaza raids; death toll hits 50

GAZA CITY—MORE PALESTINIANS WERE killed on Monday as Israel pounded Gaza with deadly air strikes and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert defended the massive military offensive in the face of international criticism.

Despite the mounting toll, Olmert told political chief named the captured soldier at the heart of the worst Middle East crisis in months—and dashed a hope after four years—would not be freed without a swap for Palestinian prisoners.

Israel has refused to negotiate with Hamas or free prisoners in exchange for the missing teenage corporal, pressing on regardless with its deadly offensive in which three football-playing adolescents were among the dead Monday.

"We haven't set a particular timetable for this operation. We will continue in places, in time, in measures that will suit our purposes," said Olmert, who is facing the biggest test of his premiership so far over the crisis.

"I think that once the Qassam (rocket) shooting will be stopped and the terrorist activities against innocent civilians will be halted altogether, there will be no need for any further action in Gaza," he said.

At least 50 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier have been killed since Israel broke out of its self-imposed truce in the Gaza Strip on July 5 in retaliation for Palestinian rocket attacks and to free Cpl. Gilad Shalit's release.

Four Palestinian teenagers, who local medical sources said were unarmed, died and another four people were wounded in the latest Israeli air strikes over the Gaza Strip after dusk Monday.

Witnesses said the victims were playing football close to an area where militants had fired makeshift rockets toward Israel a short time earlier. One rocket was reported to have landed on Israeli territory without causing damage or casualties.

An Israeli army spokesperson said the air raid had targeted a rocket-launching cell to southern Gaza in the Beit Hanoun area.

Two militant from Hamas' armed wing and two from the Popular Resistance killed in earlier strikes, and at least another 12 by shrapnel were hurt. An eighth Palestinian died of his injuries elsewhere in Gaza.

Israel has warned that troops are likely to be in for the long haul, rejecting a call by Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniya for a truce and ceasefire but denying that the offensive aims to topple his Hamas government.

"This government is senior," Olmert said, but "we have no particular desire to topple the Hamas government as a policy."

Hamas, which has seen its government of four-hundred in touch air strikes—Haniya's capture, he admits the Hamas armed wing claimed joint responsibility, has warned the assault is complicating mediation efforts aimed at freeing the corporal.

But Olmert reiterated he would not negotiate with Hamas, which officially advocates the destruction of the Jewish state, to release prisoners in a swap for Shalit as his captors have demanded.

Meeting train hard evacuated in September after a 38-year occupation, ground forces have been backed by helicopter gunships and Israeli warships off the coast of Gaza in the two-a-night months of overnight bombardment. AFP

HORSE FIGHTING
Horse fight during a horse fighting competition at a festival in Hangzhou Miao Autonomous County in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, July 10. Miao minorities celebrated the traditional festival of Xia Ha on March 6. XINHUA

Kosovo war crimes trial opens at UN

THE HAGUE—THE MAMBOYS war crimes trial of six former top Serbian officials and close allies of late Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, accused of atrocities committed by Serb troops during the 1998-99 crackdown on Kosovo, started at the UN court Monday.

"In 1999 Kosovo was prominent in international headlines and video images of conflict and convoys of thousands of Kosovo Albanians who are going to explain why," said prosecutor Thomas Hannis.

In the dock alongside ex-Serbian President Milan Milutinovic are the former Serbian Prime Minister Nikola Sainovic, once hailed "Yugoslav army chief of staff...Generals Dragoljub Ojdanic and Nebojsa Pavkovic—and Generals Vladimir Lazarevic and Sreten Lukic.

"We say the evidence will show that these six accused were not simply bystanders but that Slobodan Milosevic is a joint criminal enterprise... the aim of which was to ensure continued Serbian control over the province," he added.

Slobodan Milosevic's death in March, the Milosevic case has become pivotal for establishing what happened in Serbia's recent ethnic-Albanian province of Kosovo, from a legal point of view.

Many of the evidence to be presented is expected to be similar to the prosecution's Kosovo case in the Milosevic trial.

The former Yugoslav president died suddenly in March 11 and his trial, the first to deal with the alleged role of senior state officials during the Kosovo war, was closed without the judge ruling on the evidence presented. AFP

Passenger jet crashes in Pakistan; all 45 on board killed

MUSSA—A PASSENGER BOEING airliner (PIA) passenger plane crashed in fields on the outskirts of the central city of Multan on Monday, killing all 45 people on board, the local police chief said.

"Everyone is dead," police chief Iftikhar Sultan told Reuters as he stood at the spot where the Soldier aircraft, laden with fuel, exploded in flames after hitting the soil of a mango orchard.

Flight PK-688, en route by Islamabad to Karachi, was carrying 41 passengers and four crew.

The Fokker F-27 turboprop, built in 1964, crashed around 1.5 km from the airport, just two minutes after takeoff, Sarang Shah, PIA deputy managing director, said a news conference in Karachi.

Television workers from the private TV channel Geo and Jang Group of newspapers said they saw witnesses at the crash site say the plane was flames coming from the aircraft shortly after it took off, and it appeared to be tilting to the right.

"I saw the plane diving down and then crashed after hitting a wall of an orchard," said Mohammad Mubeen, a farmer who was working in his fields. He said the plane burst into flames after impact.

The crash occurred near a state primary school, but there were no casualties other than those on board, officials said. Reuters

Astronauts complete repair on space station

SPACEWALKER Piers Sellers puts away tools on the end pallet in the Shuttle Discovery's cargohold bay in this Nasa TV July 10 frame grab. REUTERS

HOUSTON—TWO SPACEWALKING astronauts Monday replaced broken hardware aboard the International Space Station, a new success for Nasa in the 6-day-old Discovery shuttle mission.

In their second of three planned spacewalks, astronauts Mike Fossum and Piers Sellers, who arrived aboard Discovery last month with five colleagues, replaced a broken cable and of the orbiting laboratory's communications equipment computers.

Failure could have curtailed Nasa's 16-launch shuttle launch planned for Aug. 28, since the next mission will focus on rearranging components on the station. Bolden, a US space agency official said.

"There, man, do. I feel better," Bob Lalbrade, the lead ISS flight director for the current mission, told reporters.

"So after just this successfully changed and checked out, there we couldn't proceed with the next mission, which is right on our hands," Lalbrade said.

Fossum and Sellers performed some spacewalks during their excursion, as one astronaut hanged bottomwards as another pulled the failed box from its place and into cable reels for a trolley handrail.

The pair also installed a spare pump module so an external coolant problem during their nearly seven-hour spacewalk.

"Good job guys, slightly ahead of time. It's a pleasure to watch," Nasa's mission control capsule commentator Julie Payette said from Houston after they placed the pump. AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

60 dead in Mogadishu fighting

MOGADISHU—Fighting surged in Mogadishu on Monday between Islamist militias and fighters loyal to the city's warlords, pushing the death toll over two days to at least 60 and pounding a key hospital with artillery and gunfire. Residents feared the death toll would climb even further as the worst fourteen fighting in the capital since the Islamists seized it primarily ago from an alliance of US-backed warlords. Witnesses said fighters on Monday used rocket propelled grenades and artillery and machineguns fire. "The hospital is under very heavy mortar and artillery attack and many bodies are lying. Ghana is everywhere in the hospital and staffers running away," Abdikadir Dheeka, a medical officer at Mogadishu's Medina Hospital, told Reuters by phone as artillery and gunfire rocked Mogadishu. Reuters

Britain sends more troops to Afghanistan

LONDON—Britain said Monday it will send nearly 800 more troops to southern Afghanistan between now and October to grapple with Taliban insurgents, bringing its total deployment in the area to 4,400, in a statement to parliament, Defence Secretary Des Browne added that more support helicopters would be sent to the troubled region, together with unmanned surveillance aircraft. Browne told the House of Commons that the Royal Marines, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the Royal Irish Regiment and the Royal Engineers—will be taking "to accelerate the reconstruction effort." Senior military personnel, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a force of around 130 members the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers—currently on standby in Cyprus—would be sent the next couple days. AP

US soldiers killed in revenge for rape

BAGHDAD—An al-Qaida linked group claimed a Web video Tuesday suggesting to devise the mutilated bodies of two US soldiers kidnapped and killed last month, claiming it killed them in revenge for the rape slaying of a young Iraqi woman by American troops from whom it is holding one. The Mujahedeen Shura Council previously claimed responsibility for killing the two soldiers, who were abducted in a June 16 attack near the town of Youssifiyah, southwest of Baghdad, in which a third soldier was also killed. But the statement was the first time the group linked the slaying to the rape case. A statement by the group said the video was released as "revenge for our sister who was dishonored by a soldier of the same brigade." AP

Gay marriage fights intensify in US

SOUTH DAKOTA—Massachusetts' highest court ruled overturning that voters could decide whether to ban gay marriage in the first and only state to legalize it, while a California court accepted the constitutionality of such a ban. The latest developments in the state-by-state battle over the controversial issues came two days after two major legal setbacks for backers of same-sex marriage in New York and Georgia and rolled out-reached decisions on the issue nationwide. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's unanimous ruling from state lawmakers to vote on a constitutional amendment on Wednesday that would ban both gay marriage and civil unions. If the lawmakers do the voters 2006 November Legislature approve the measure, it would go to a second legislative session in 2007. Reuters

The WORLD

Ethel Lorraine B. Ocampo

Basayev, Russia's Bin Laden, slain

Chechen rebel leader had planned another attack to mar G8 summit

Elusive terrorist's cause in Chechnya may die too

MOSCOW—IN A LONG AND notorious career, Shamil Basayev, the slender terrorist leader of the most vicious separatist faction in Chechnya, was an amphetamine injection, a homage to Osama bin Laden, a hostage-taker, a guerrilla commander, and a man-made spokesperson for terror who tried in turn by mass killings of civilians, even schoolchildren, for political ends and revenge.

His stature as Russia's most wanted man also made him a potent symbol, the face of an insurgency in Chechnya and the nearby territories that seemed never to end.

And so when Russia announced his death on Monday, just weeks after surrounding the killing of rebel Muslim bin Laden, the rebel Chechen president, it was the latest of almost two years of setbacks for the separatists, and raised questions about the direction of their war.

"It is kind of the end of an era for this whole movement," said Andrew McGregor, the director of Aberdeen International Security Analysis, in Toronto, which analyzes strategic issues in the Islamic world.

Basayev, who founded Islamic terrorist cells, commandos, and Chechen cadres of revenge to eclipse all other separatists, had galvanized many of the remaining fighters and terrorists operating against Russia and the pro-Kremlin Chechen government, who drew special much of that nation, a small republic in the Caucasus.

In interviews late last year outside Russia, several active fighters who were recuperating from injuries spoke of him as a spectacularly bold hero, even those who said they disagreed with some of his reckless tactics.

Darkly charismatic, with a shaved head, expansive beard, and ready sidearm, Basayev was one of the last active fighters from the earliest days of the war, in 1994.

New York Times News Service

MOSCOW—CHECHEN REBEL LEADER SHAMIL Basayev, Russia's most wanted man, was killed on Monday, handing a huge boost to President Vladimir Putin as he prepared to host a Group of Eight summit.

FSB security agency chief Nikolai Patrushev said Basayev, who had claimed responsibility for the bloody Beslan school siege in 2004, had been about to mount an attack in southern Russia to start the weekend G8 summit Putin will chair in St. Petersburg.

Putin, whose already huge popularity at home will be further boosted by the news as he prepares to meet US President George W. Bush and other world leaders, said Basayev's death was "deserved retribution" for a campaign of killing.

More than 331 people, half of them children, were killed in the Beslan school siege in September 2004. Russian forces stormed the school, which had been seized by Islamic militants linked to Chechnya's fight for independence.

"This a deserved retribution against the bandits for our children in Beslan ... for all those acts of terror they committed in Moscow and other Russian regions," Putin said in televised comments.

Patrushev said Basayev, with other Chechen fighters, was killed in an operation by special forces in Ingushetia, a region neighboring Chechnya.

"They intended to use this terrorist act to put pressure on Putin's leadership at a time when the G8 summit was being held," said Patrushev.

TWO soldiers walk past the wreckage of a truck damaged by an explosion that is believed to have killed Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev (left photo) in the village of Ekazhevo in the southern Russian region of Ingushetia July 10.

Officials said Basayev was killed when his group's explosive-laden truck blew up. They said they found fragments of Basayev's prosthetic leg and his head, with its distinctive beard.

A rebel website confirmed Basayev was dead, calling him a "shahid" or holy martyr. But it said there had been no special operation by Russian forces.

"The Chechen commander died when a truck loaded with explosives accidentally blew up," the website, kavkazcenter.com site quoted a rebel spokesperson as saying. Reuters

POLISH President Lech Kaczynski (left) shakes hands with his twin brother Jaroslaw Kaczynski, after naming him Poland's new premier.

Poland's president picks twin brother as new PM

WARSAW—POLISH PRESIDENT Lech Kaczynski appointed twinbrother Kaczynski, his identical twin brother and the chairman of the governing Law and Justice party, as prime minister during a ceremony at the presidential palace.

Wearing a black suit, the president shook hands with his brother—who looked almost indistinguishable except for his gray suit—and wished him luck in forming a new government.

"I wish the new prime minister designate, chairman Jaroslaw Kaczynski, luck in forming his new government," the president said Monday.

In brief remarks, Jaroslaw Kaczynski pledged to work to deserve Poland of what he considers the corruption that flourished in the years since the fall of communism in 1989-1990, one of his favorite themes.

"The work of the Cabinet that I hope will be formed within the next few days will concentrate on everything aiming to fix the state," Kaczynski said. "The goal is to ensure no one and, Poland needs fixing, needs deep rebuilding."

The president also warmly thanked outgoing Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, who officially stepped down earlier Monday for his hard work to "rebuilding the state."

Marcinkiewicz resigned amid reports of disagreements over economic policy between him and Jaroslaw Kaczynski, who was widely regarded as the power behind the scenes of the outgoing government. He is now to become the party's candidate for mayor of Warsaw.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski has said his future Cabinet would continue the pro-social welfare policies of Marcinkiewicz's government. Law and Justice sealed a coalition deal in May with two hard-right parties—the farm-based Self-Defense and the Roman Catholic League of Polish Families.

The new prime minister now has 14 days to form his Cabinet, and then another two weeks to win a confidence vote in parliament. AP

Mexico bet shows 'fraud' video

MEXICO CITY—LEFTIST CANDIdate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador alleged on Monday he has "irrefutable" videotape proof of fraud in last week's presidential balloting as his supporters protested nonstop street demonstrations and he gave a sit-down.

Lopez Obrador launched a series of legal challenges to the July 2 election last Sunday, after losing to conservative Felipe Calderon by some 240,000 votes—little more than half a percent of the 41.7 million ballots cast.

Mexico's election tribunal took up the case on Monday after Lopez Obrador's organization delivered 900 pages documenting alleged vote fraud last Sunday. Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE
Judoka Baylon nails gold in Thailand/A27

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Italian fans to Azzurri: Grazie for World Cup victory /A28

Bulls gun for equalizer vs Giants

RED BULL COACH YENG Guiao still cannot tell if his flat-lined team has finally come back to life. Today's game will give him a clearer picture.

What he is sure of, though, is the faith he has in his squad.

"At this point, I believe we have the ability to come back," said the no-nonsense Bulls mentor.

Red Bull will try to validate that faith when it takes on Purefoods in Game 4, seeking to equalize the best-of-seven series for this Grand Slam-bid Smart- PBA Philippine Cup in the Araneta Coliseum.

The Bulls opened a 4-3 hole Sunday night, passing to life their cunning game and hitting their shots from the perimeter to rout the Giants' entire lead to 2-1 with a key 89-79 victory, also in the Big Dome.

"I'm not going to say we have fully recovered," Guiao said. "But if we even up [today], the series will become more interesting."

Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio knows that the other hot team put him building a 2-0 cushion will be hard to assure if the Giants allow the Bulls to equalize, thus the young mentor has begun stressing a point to his battle-tested veterans.

"Game 4 will definitely be the key," Gregorio admitted. "We know we can never anticipate the next move of Red Bull, but it's interesting that once he sees formula worked, they might do it again."

Gregorio must first look for his answers.

Nliba taking Games 1 and 2 of the series, which is supported by Wilkins' numbers, six assists coming from the perimeter, the Giants suddenly lost their outside touch, shooting a dismal 37.7 percent in Game 3 that was made worse by the team's agony from the three-point range.

Without their usual hits from afar, the Giants had no recourse but to pass the burden of fighting up the scoreboards to Junior Ong and Korby Jaymundo.

"Nay didn't have a good start and it affected the flow of our offense," said Gregorio. "When he started to raise, we relied on Junior and Korby to create."

And Ong also struggled. While Castillo went 0-of-3 from the three-point area, Ong drew even worse; he misfired all of his eight triples.

Right before Game 5, the season's best players will be honored in an event dubbed the Coca-Cola Annual Awards. Ong, Jaymundo and Red Bull shotman Enrico Villanueva are battling it out for what is the closest MVP race in recent years.

And Bull's rarely Tegarde and Sonny Thoss of Purefoods can decide the running. Jane Nicanor

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San Mig-RP breaks ice in Jones Cup

THE SAN MIGUEL PHILIPPINE NATIONAL team finally won one yesterday, surviving a young Australian club, 79-67, in the elimination round of the 2006 William Jones Cup basketball championships in Taiwan.

The Filipinos stayed in the hunt for a 50-50 1st four slot with the win, their first after opening with three straight losses at the Taipei Physical Education College Gym.

Now up for the back-to-the-wall Filipinos will be Kazakhstan, the first of four matches they need to sweep to settle to-all ties to the last four.

Yancy de Ocampo and Dondon Hontiveros combined for 13 points in the pivotal third quarter as SMC-Pilipinas opened a 10-point lead before surfing for a 58-47 edge.

"Eventually we were playing our worst game thus far," said coach Chot Reyes.

Joseph Yeo and Ali Peek led SMC-Philippines with 14 points, De Ocampo had 12, Hontiveros 9, and Felipe Reyes 6.

A young South Korean team made up of college-age standouts humbled the collegiate-age Filipino guns, 95-88, on Monday even as the American Athletes in Action squad stayed tied for the lead with doubleover Qatar at 3-0.

The upset against the Koreans followed twice to the Taiwanese, 77-72, and Qatar, 68-63. Manong R. Castillo

Numbers count for RP Junior World golf bets

By Jong Arciano

SAN DIEGO—THERE WILL be over a thousand junggolfers from about 50 countries—including the host, which has pitched tokens from 40 states—and only 12 tilts at value when the 2006 Junior World Golf Championships kick off Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

Aside from being a unit of thousandth-ing skills, the Junior World has become a battle against numbers for the participating countries, and the 45-strong Philippine delegation will take a shot at those little crystal trophies whose sizes do not reflect the magnitude of their significance.

"You really don't go through the pain of traveling all the way from the Philippines and not have a winning attitude," said Sung Sharan E, president of the Junggolf Foundation of the Philippines and RP delegation head.

"I have little knows that a trophy, whether it's 3in, second or third [place], is worth fighting for."

For 9-year-old Chloe Revoy, the only female Filipino tee in the youngest age division and making her first appearance here, as well as Nike Garcia and Abby Acevedo, both 7, their task is to try to craft a fitting culminative experience for their youth.

On the other hand, for current stars like Jervie Arellon, Wellen Sapitol, Miguel Tabuena, JC Gonzales and Debbie de Villa, the task is to continue a work in progress.

On their shoulders lie the hopes of the Philippines to maintain a streak of two winning years—and three of the last four—that started with 30 Gonzales' victory in the 7-8 class in 2004.

Sapitol blew away the boys' 11-12 field with a second-breaking score of 21 under par last year, and Arellon, who defended her girls' 9 crown on Sunday, won the girls' 9-under in 2005.

The ISP kids' stint is supported by Philippine Airlines, Samsung, Rogers, PCSO and ICTSI, which spends for a stable of talents.

Interest has also been rekindled in the 15-17 division, one that hasn't been sparkled ever since Ramon Rivera was more than in 1968.

The players who last devised a lot of anxiousness here is Tommie Asintic, who cut for eighth last year—the first top 10 finish by a Filipino in more than a decade. Asintic will be seeking more than junggolf glory when he kicks off his bid at Torrey Pines.

A winning finish here could net a scholarship offer from any of the various top universities who will survey the action at the site of the 2000 US Open.

Winning in the Junior World may have the likes of Jennifer Rankin and Jayde Agoja get their scholarships to top US schools.

Competition will be held in the following seasons: Torrey Pines for Class A, Bernardo and Olympic Course for Classes B and E, Lomas wood for Class C, Park Breeze and Lake San Marcos for Class D and the pitch-and-putt Cuesta Park for Class F.

The Philippines has 10 entries in Class A, 6 in Class B, 10 in Class C, seven in Class E, nine in Class E and four in Class F.

Red Lions eye share of lead versus Stags

STREAKING SAN BEDA CHALLENGER SAN beleaguered crew an undefeated team Perpetual and Jose Rizal battle each other today in the NCAA men's basketball at the Mowy Arena in Bacoor.

The Red Lions are on a roll with three straight victories going into the 4 p.m. game against the Stags who are on a roller-coaster ride set for in the eliminations.

With electrifying rookie Samuel Dizon and Greg Slaughter providing the spark, the Red Lions are hoping to join the Philippine Christian Industry (8-3) for sole possession of second place with a victory against the Stags who are at the middle of the pack with a 2-3 record.

But Jose Beda coach Nyl Bacal admitted that it would be a battle in the park for his charges as the Stags are going to prove themselves after former star Lito Gajimda left them to join the pro ranks.

"You can't take the Stags lightly because they are young and the coach is full of enthusiasm and wants for the team," added Bacal.

Coach by newcomers Raymund Valenzuela, the Stags will have to count on big men Jaymon Habacon and Francis de Leon and big scorers Jim Yhon and Reef Ybanez to realize their dreams.

Their first task, of course, is to stop Dizon, who is fourth in scoring with a 16.4 point per game average but has taken the league by storm with his outstanding presence in the court.

Yhon, the exchange student from Lagos, has been keeping the Red Lions together, taking the scoring chores from standard guesses Roger Mercol and Yusef Aljamal. The 6-foot Bacolod, on the other hand, is playing the starting ground position with aplomb, enjoying the license to shoot from the floor.

In the other session game, Perpetual and Jose Rizal hope to catch a lift that will put them back in with in the 2-p.m. match.

Both on a three-game slide, the blue and the Heavy Bombers scramble to get out of the bottom end of the standings although Perpetual has a better record having won its first game. Mary Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Christian U tankster Gabriel Espinas shoots over Jose Rizal's Floyd Deslosarios during their game Monday PCU vote, 81-77.

Football body 'should be judged by peers'

By Mussing R. Castillo

IMAGINE LIFE THEY MIGHT BE, TWO regional football associations (FAs) will ensure the governing Philippine Football Federation to be judged by its peers.

Officials of the two FAs said that taking the problem outside the confines of the football family would be the group's best resort.

"If he believes that he is right, and if he is more strongly, he'll go to court," Lagos, an FA president, for Pacificador said yesterday, in issuing a challenge to PFF president Johnny Hernandez.

Pacificador spoke in yesterday's UNA Recess where he was joined by retired governor Dr. Nanette Dabra, a former PFF president, and Dasmariñas Capital Region FA head Jose Vic Bautista.

The group's trends was fueled by the federation's continued refusal to submit its financial records for auditing.

Hernandez had earlier said that the president's refusal was enough ground for the filing of an ouster case against the FA.

"If the PFF is not hiding anything, then why not allow us to conduct the audit," Bautista said. "Doing it the courts is an option. But if we can settle it in a congress, it would be better."

Pacificador told the public sports forum sponsored by Negros, the Manila City government and the Manila Sports Council that only a congress can change the present PFF leadership.

"We [Dasmariñas] refuse to answer the issues [football spirit] and keeps the [national scores or issues]," Pacificador, a college professor at De La Salle University, said.

"Stephan Hernandez and we will see good changes in Philippine football."

Pacificador and Bautista also accused Hernandez of mismanaging the PFF, of grave negligence and of wanton spending of the federation's funds.

Idora said he is willing to accept his old job at the PFF "if it could bring football back to its glorious past."

The last PFF board accused of dereliction of duty when PHI suffered its 109 finish ever spent in the last three years and how P40 million was budgeted for this year.

Tejadas want GAB inquiry

HOW TIME FLIES, especially for people who are having a lot of fun.

Just not for super Eugene Tejada, whose term months confinement at the Makati Medical Center must start the decades, seemingly over.

We, [31 here] two-

months since the Mother's Day holidays and, unlike my previous calls to Eugene's father Sammy he had something more overall me yesterday.

"Eugene's left hand grip is getting stronger, and he can now sit up at a 90-degree angle for 10 to 15 minutes without getting dizzy," he said.

Sammy also informed me that his lawyer Jun Bidol is set to appeal to the Justice and Ombudsman Board seeking a full-blown investigation into the May 14 incident at the Quezon Center which rendered Eugene paralyzed from the waist down.

"We want to know exactly how it happened and why it took 40 minutes before Eugene could be brought to the hospital," Sammy said.

He said it's too early to tell, but I have a strong feeling the GAB appeal will only serve as a prelude to a court suit.

Otherwise, what's the purpose of the investigation?

* * *

Filipino basketball fans in Taiwan must be very disappointed.

The Philippine team competing in the ongoing 2006 William Jones Cup has had its first three games.

Coach Chot Reyes has been bound to the national team of Qatar, 68-61; the national team of Taiwan, 77-73; and to the Korea University all-stars, 96-60.

With the 0-3 record, it is unlikely for Chot's Filipino basketball team to duplicate last year's third-place finish. Coach Chot's Filipino team in the inaugural tournament might prove very difficult.

The Jones Cup games will be aired on Solar Sports at 8 p.m. today and every night thereafter at around the same time. Solar's Jude Bacasmas will be doing the commentary.

* * *

Also scheduled at 8 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum, just before Game 4 of the Philippine Cup Best-of-Seven championship series, is the 2006 MVP Awards rites.

The word won't be official until 6 p.m., but according to the grapevine, Purefoods' James Yap has run off with the coveted individual plum. Reports also have it that as early as three days ago, teammate and fellow MVP contender Enrico Raymundo had congratulated James, who is said to have been very touched by the gesture.

Yap said himself he's very grateful to his teammates because he knew it took a great deal of humility for anyone to do something like that.

* * *

This year, PLDT head honcho Manny V. Pangilinan celebrates his 58th birthday (58-something calls for major activities—a concert at the Metalica Theatre featuring Gary Valenciano, Regine Velasquez and Lani Misalucha [who was flown in from Las Vegas for the occasion], and the MRT Cup, an intramurals basketball tournament involving teams of the finest players from Asia and Europe.

The concert, tickets still for presented by "heavy cocktails," will be held on July 15, the eve of MVP's birthday, while the MRT Cup, which is scheduled to have minor rehash of the two conferences in a row by the best in badminton, will be staged at the Araneta Coliseum from July 16 to 19.

A total of $100,000 in prize money is at stake in this year's competition.

* * *

Ateneo coach Norman Black looked drained after the game against National University on opening day of the 2006 UAAP season.

"We had a rough game," said Norman who admitted he did not expect coach Manny Dandan's Bulldogs to put up such a match-defense against the blue Eagles.

Nevertheless, "a win is a win," said Norman.

SPORTSWATCH

Makati 5-cock derby 2nd round today

ROUND TWO OF THE PULARO COCK "DAS PRIMERAS" DERBY SHOW is COCK derby-pair cocker stag today at the Makati Coliseum with 60 encounters one leg and 3-Way Derby this at opponent. The opening round Wednesday was dominated by cocklering invitees and by Bill Sarmiento of Super Tenderloin, Senator Barry Gonzalez, Hanson Mariner Tang, Something Kim Whitham Cui, Super Mar Mar II, Makapilas, Sportsman's Pal of the Universe, Princess Pamela, Whatever Pick, Wonderful and Whatever Pride. 10-cocker derby are also set on July 13, 15 and 16. A special score of P100,000 will be shared among per leg pairs who will score two points. For inquiries, call 896-4451 or 896-3945.

P100,000 at stake in Sta. Ana cockfest

A PAIR POT OF $5 LEGS THREE POULOS AWAITS THE WINNERS IN THE "Feasted Win One Cock Derby" this Saturday at the Sta. Ana Gamefarm AP Bayan Avenue, Makati City. The derby, which will start at 11 a.m., is expected to draw more than 100 entries, and host Wil Lukas Derby fans PT. 100. The feasted win champion will get the P100,000 jackpot prize. Pit manager Rodolfo Magno said the derby will have 3 encounters per day with 3 matches held at the arena every Saturday. For inquiries, call 896-3494 or 896-3495.

Ozamiz sweeps Tagaytay, barges into NBC finals

OZAMIZ CITY—DEFENDING CHAMPION Ozamiz City cruised Tagaytay, 80-76, in Game 3 Monday night and clinched the Best 5-out duel in the 2006 Danwin Brandy NBC national basketball championship at the Gov Angel Medina Jr. gym.

Six-foot-nine sentinel Jhon Yabut, Gerry Cayabyab and Bob Cone Bangit stepped up after Ozamiz's scoring machines, Marlon Bunce and Billy Mondi, were held in check by Tagaytay's defense to advance Tagaytay rugger to complete the Cavite Shrine squad's sweep of the best-of-three semifinal series.

The Ozamiz five of Mayor Reynaldo Parulang will dispute the title against the winner of the other semifinal pitting Spring Cooking Oil-Pasonanca over Mindanao Autonomous Shahzad "Sic" Pacilan's Cooking Oil Masters lead 1-0 and need to win once more in Pagadian tomorrow to avenge the title elimination.

Yabut collected 10 points on five-of-six shooting and grabbed 10 rebounds to pace Ozamiz, which is gunning for a back-to-back title in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Solgistics Lines, National's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Bagwis Foods, Firefly Lighting, Modern and Prime Channel.

Tagaytay (80)—Cayabyab 22, Bangit 19, Bacero 6, Bautista 6, Lumanog 5, Alberto 4, Sampaloc 4, Espino 3, Lit 2, Ocampo 2, Lopez 2, Dalog 2, Cabbad 2, Delgado 0.

Ozamiz (76)—Yabut 10, Bunce 10, Mondi 10, Cone 10, Ocfemia 9, Pacilan 8, Mendoza 6, Ramos 5, Bandalan 4, Abapo 2, Tolentino 2, Lim 0, Gonzales 0, Montero 0.

Quarters: 25-17, 38-41, 58-62, 80-76

BARE EYE

Recall: Trinidad

RECALL Trinidad was unable to transmit his column due to power failure in his area. Here's to will we again on Thursday. —Ed

Young Irish speed devil makes AF3 a 3-way fight

THEY'RE NOT SAYING IT OUT LOUD YET BUT EVERYbody is eyeing a many eye at Ali Jackson, the 17-year-old lead driver of Ireland's team Racing who won the last round of the Asian Formula Three Series at the Zhuhai International Circuit in China last month and is looking formidable going into Rounds 6 to 9 this weekend.

Even Filipinos Team Jay and Jacko Orbia, who have four shooters between them, were amazed at how Jackson, now one of the Irish team in place of countryman John O'Brien, posted a runaway victory in wet conditions in Guangdong province.

AF3 Cup, chair Ed Witta, however, attributed Jackson's high-powered performance as the to the Irish team's doggedness in putting a lot of rules in their racing machines in the off-season.

"He's Cincinnati's done a lot of testing in the off-season," said the elder Brita, "and the rewards are coming out."

Witta said the results of the opening races, set on Saturday and Sunday in the 1.3-kilometer Zhuhai track, will depend heavily on prevailing conditions.

"Everyone are used to racing in wet conditions and Jackson showed this in Round 1," he said. "We will see how the coming races develop. If it rains, Jackson and the other Europeans will certainly have the edge.

"If it doesn't, Dodo and Team can give them all a good fight. We expect a tough three-way fight for honours."

On the strength of his Round 5 win, Jackson has climbed into a tie for third and fourth overall with the younger Brita at 52 points, just four points behind Briton Dillon Bastiaan of Jd. Motorsports. Ng of Speedtech Asia, still down the way with 67 points.

In all, 14 drivers will be on the grid on Saturday, including thirteen-year-old Brita who is fifth with 42 points.

PSC picks up tab for P30-M Philsoc debt

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION yesterday announced that it will shoulder the P30 million debt of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee in exchange for the sports equipment which Philsoc purchased for the 2005 SEA Games.

PSC chief Willie "Butch" Ramirez said he has signed a memorandum with the officials of the Philippine Olympic Committee and Philsoc stating that the agency will be paying the suppliers the outstanding balance for the equipment.

In return, the Philsoc will hand over the sports equipment worth P100 million to the agency for the use of the 1,000-plus national athletes, he said.

Ramirez said the gesture is part of the government commitment to help the Philsoc defray its expenses for the staging of the SEAG last December.

"I'll see you later (for dinner) next week, then we will pay next week," said Ramirez. MELVIC MORALES REYES

BAYLON: Beats Korean

Baylon nails gold

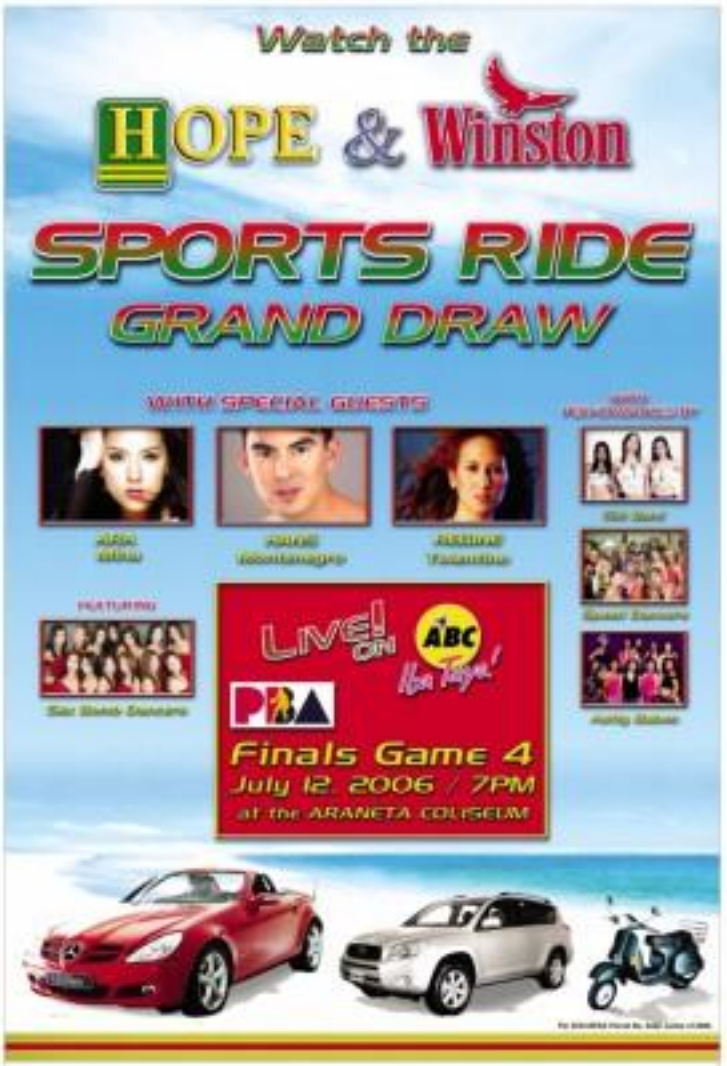
SEVEN-TIME SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES gold medalist John Baylon added another feather to his cap by topping his class in the 2006 Thailand International Judo Championships held over the weekend in Chanthaburi, Thailand.

Baylon, still the country's top judoka at 43, bested all his opponents in the +81-kg division to claim the gold in the tournament participated in by 16 countries from all over Asia.

Baylon beat Kim Young-hoon of Korea in the finals with an ippon in 12 seconds.

"Everybody was surprised by what he (Baylon) did," said Philippine Amateur Judo Association president Dave Carter. "That Korean guy is one of the top judoka in his country."

The Nationals also brought home a silver medal courtesy of Gilney Schwarzkopf in the +90 kg class. Completing the team were Gilbert Ramirez (-73 kg), Hansen Yuwa (-55 kg), Elmarie Mahusay (-52 kg), Katie Eloy Lovelace (+57 kg), Luis Bito Bidant (-63 kg), Erika Joy Pantaleon (+70 kg), and coach Aracia Pedroza.



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SPORTS

Fans to Azzurri: Grazie

Italy toasts World Cup champs

ITALIAN skipper Fabio Cannavaro holds up the World Cup

ROME—ROME'S LOST THOUSANDS IN FESTIVE frenzy Monday as the Italian capital threw a counter-welcoming embrace around the World Cup and the men who wrenched it so dramatically from the hotbed of the world's most football-mad nation to Germany.

Almost a full-wing impro, Walter Veltroni, estimated that one million people had turned out to welcome home the conquering heroes as the team held a victory parade through the city.

Men, women and children screamed their joy as skipper Fabio Cannavaro proudly held aloft the gold trophy at the front of an open-topped bus. People scrambled atop stationary public transport buses and even Carabinieri (anti-Riotes to get a better vantage point as the bus moved into Piazza Venezia.

The team, some swapped in the Italian strokes seemed eager to encourage even greater frenzy as the bus inched its way through the throng.

The trophy in one hand, Cannavaro cupped a palm to his ear as if to encourage an even louder response from the crowd, while shoemaker Del Piero stood precariously on a seat and pumped his arms up and down like a rock star.

Prime Minister Romano Prodi, perhaps indulging in a childhood dream, could not resist holding the cup aloft as he hosted a victory reception for the heroes at his offices earlier.

"We have at home stirred with win a modern and suffering without equal," during the (world) long competition, Prodi told the 23-members squad, many of whom proudly wore their gold winners' medals over their suits.

"Thanks for reminding the younger generation that achievement is wrought with effort, sweat and commitment," added Prodi. "Grazie. All Italians love you!"

The prime minister, whose beleaguered government is hoping to ride a wave of optimism to revive a near-moribund economy after the World Cup triumph, handed each of the players a medal during the reception.

The event began more than 90 minutes behind schedule after the team bus, followed by a cavalcade of cars and motorbikes, got caught in a monumental snarl-up of tourist-clotting Rome, was repeatedly doused by a crowd in the way into the city.

The Azzurri's plane had touched down at a military airbase outside Rome two hours earlier, and later who had waited hours to welcome them finally erupted into cheers when Cannavaro emerged onto the gangway with the trophy. AFP

Xavier keeps lead in futsal tourney

THE XAVIER ALUMNI FOOTBALL Club, reached Pagcor, 17-1, to stay unchallenged at the top, even as the AFP Television contended Aguinaldo 7-4, in the featured matches held over the weekend in the men's second division-A of the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship at the Blue Eagle Gym in Ateneo.

Xavier's Benjamin Mendoza wound the goals against Pagcor's sporty defense, even as Raymund Cardona and Anselm Jones dropped in two each to complete the rout and put Xavier firmly on top with a 4-0-1 (win-draw-loss) card in the men's second division-A.

The men from AFP meanwhile, had a difficult time beating Ateneo on its own turf.

After posting a 5-2 lead in the first half, the AFP Television marshaled the Eagles' output in the second frame to finally secure the win—and take second spot—in the tournament sponsored by Adidas in cooperation with the National Capital Region Football Association.

PJ Arbasin and Lyndon Tamore scored the team's first four goals, which helped tie AFP's third one. Ateneo dipped to 2-2-0-2.

In the other match in the men's second division-A, University of Asia & the Pacific subdue-ruled Mariners 6, 5-0, to improve their mark to 3-0-0-1.

World Sports

France to Zidane: We forgive you

PARIS—Head Coach Jacques Santini told Zinedine Zidane he was savage mad—but forgave Italy's Marco Materazzi in the World Cup final, according to a book published Tuesday. Even if the end of his sporting world remains unpaired by the event, the pair shows that in France, it's pursuit to give the most-adored hero captain for the head-butt, which earned him an expulsion in the final minutes of Sunday's game and marked a shocking end to his illustrious career. France lost 5-3 in penalty kicks. More than 43 percent of the 882 respondents said they understood the star's reaction, according to the poll conducted by telephone by CSA polling agency published in Tuesday's Le Parisien newspaper. AP

Mauresmo tightens grip on No. 1 spot

LONDON, England—Amélie Mauresmo of France defended singles title, the fourth in Grandslamer in 11 years, making the 27-year-old to consolidate her position on top of the WTA rankings, released Monday. Mauresmo defeated Belgium's Justine Henin-Hardenne, 7-6, 6-2, 6-4, on Saturday for her second Grand Slam title. Mauresmo's margin over No. 2 Henin-Hardenne is 1,900 points, Mauresmo has 7,921 points to 5,191, with Svetlana Kuznetsova retaining third. Russia's Maria Sharapova remained fourth. AFP

McLaren announces Montoya's sub

PARIS—Pedro de la Rosa will replace Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya, who is sitting out McLaren's absence racing, driving for the McLaren-Mercedes Formula One team, it was announced on Tuesday. The Spaniard will compete for McLaren at the Sunday's French Grand Prix, the team said. "McLaren-Mercedes and Juan Pablo Montoya have reached agreement that the driver will relinquish his place for the forthcoming world championship races," a press release said. AFP

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A doping crisis and 7 stages but still no Armstrong heir

TOUR DE FRANCE

BORDEAUX—THE FIRST PHASE OF THE Tour de France has included a doping crisis, a mid-stage, seven road stages and a time trial but not the emergence of an heir apparent to seven-time champion Lance Armstrong.

During the opening week until Monday's rest day in Bordeaux, the 32nd edition of the Tour has been a race by elimination.

Among the pre-Tour favorites, German Jan Ullrich, Italian Ivan Basso and Spaniard Oscar Pereiro (Caisse) were the first to disappear after being implicated in a Spanish doping probe.

Then also-ferried Kazakh Alexander Vinokourov the closest in title at five of his rival leagues were linked to the investigation, forcing the Kazakh team to withdraw.

Spaniard Alejandro Valverde pulled out after fracturing his collarbone in a crash during the third stage.

The overall leader's yellow jersey jumped from shoulders to shoulders until 26-year-old Ukrainian Serhiy Honchar of the T-Mobile team, claimed it with victory in the seventh stage, a 62.5-kilometers time trial.

The race against the clock was regarded as the first real test of the Tour but it gave few indications about the hierarchy of the pure racers among you.

Among the favorites, the best start went to American Floyd Landis, a former Postmaster in the retired department. The other winners were the T-Mobile team with six riders in the top 14 of the overall standings.

Landis was second to Honchar on Saturday's race minute and one second. However, he defeated Germans Andreas Klöden (T-Mobile) by 41 seconds, Discovery Channel leader George Hincapie by 1:42 and Lot Cyclisme (Liechtenstein) by 1:05. Reuters

BF Resort rules Nokia golf

BF RESORT VILLAGE DOMINATED THE FIELD at Valley Golf Club the way it did at Forest Hills and assembled a tournament-best 358 to top the Nokia 3 division of the 2006 Nokia Cup intervillage golf tournament in Sampaloc Monday.

Robert Reyes, a 19-handicapper, missed by no more 31 points to capture in the first round of the 36-hole affair at Forest Hills by firing the tournament-all-points under the Guildford scoring system as he powered the BF golfers' romp into the grand finals.

BF Resort then wound up with a 692, counting its first round score of 286, to post a seven-point victory over the combined team of Cinco Hermanos/Monte Vista, which turned in a 300 for a 384 in the tournament sponsored by Nokia.

Valle Verde 2/3 shot a 388 for a 392 as it finished third while former champion Greenhills 1 rolled with a 305 to attain fourth place with a 371 and the last berth in the grand finals of the event supported by Pan Pilot, Ed Hartfield, skincare, Copenhagen Apartment Hotel, Immofish, CBM Vision, Planet, Spin Velo-Ergofitness, Perth & Toy and Citibank.

San Lorenzo struggled with a 382 and did so fifth with a 317.

Marathon listing ends today

RUNNING ENTHUSIASTS FROM METRO Manila and nearby provinces will have until today to register for the National Capital Region leg of the 30th National MILO Marathon at the Quirino Grandstand slated on Sunday.

Race Director Rudy Biscocho is expecting more than 15,000 runners to participate in the Kiddie 1K, 5K and 10K events as well as the 42K elimination race.

In the 21K other qualifying races this year, only the top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions get slots to the MILO Marathon finals on Dec. 10.

In the Metro Manila leg, all male runners who finish the 42K race in less than four hours and all the female runners who reach the finish line within four and a half hours are qualified to compete in the 42K grand finals.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bernie D. Velarde

Fun with a capital 'N'!

By Dianne M. Villafuerte
Inquirer Researcher

"NICK-NICK-NICK-NI-NICK-Nick-Nick-Nickelodeon!"

Hurry noise-wielding kids to the Kids from Arroyo to this Star City Complex on Saturday. With parents and peeps in tow they packed the Mini Theater for the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards 2006 Preview Party.

And fans of the popular kiddie channel were treated to an abbreviated fun and games to celebrate the recently 10th anniversary.

Hosted by Nickelodeon's Meli Alda Rosa and Alvin Ortega, the event was "circus-centric"—complete with acrobats, jugglers, a magician and costume artist. The kids roll-call and sashed the fans away. They were also treated to an exclusive preview of the Kids' Choice Awards 2006 held in April in Los Angeles and airing July 15. Green haired Sandwich brought the house down with "Tugged," the latest single off its latest album. The young ones sang along, to the amazement of the adults. Whoa, this generation already knows how to rock?

Winner Sam C. says he was 'dying' to get one of those orange Nick blimps

Feeling 'weird'

Little Big Star champion Sam Concepcion strutted scenarios even before he was introduced. He warmed everyone with his dance moves. Then the crowd went wild as the multitalented 13-year-old was announced as this year's Pinoy Pinnacles awardee and got dinned—a "pinnel-ginna"—Nick tradition.

Sam, who had won the souls of Nick viewers who voted via text messages or through the Nickelodeon Web site, bested four other nominees: Pinoy Big Brother housemate Sam Milby, actress and commercial model Ina Calzada, hotdog champ Manny Pacquiao, and TV host and Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity sweetheart Bianca Gonzalez.

Asked how it felt to be this year's Pinoy Pinnacles, Sam said, "It's exciting! I've been dying to get one of those orange blimps! I'm just really happy." Didn't he find it weird that kids looked up to him rather he's just a kid himself? "Well, now that you've mentioned it," he said, "yes, it actually feels weird! I myself should have someone to look up to! (On the other hand), that's okay. It should make me more responsible and help me stay grounded."

Previous Pinoy Pinnacle awardees are Sarah Geronimo (2004) and Rita Iya Rudal (2005).

Catch the telecast of Kids' Choice Awards 2006 on July 15 at 12 p.m. on Nickelodeon.

WANNABE 'N: Sam Concepcion gets slimed, as tradition dictates, top right. This was after he got his orange blimp, top, from hosts Meli and Alvin Ortega ... and Spongebob! The Nick critter's merry-go-round accessories, above, flipped and roared each other in the air.

PHOTOS: NOEL ACTUTAN

Cinemalaya director says this year's rules revised

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE RULES AND REGULATIONS for this year's Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival were revised to "make the event more accessible," according to festival director Nestor Jardin.

Jardin, who is also president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, said some key points in the written agreement between Cinemalaya and the filmmakers were changed "in consideration of the needs" of the participants.

FELLED: right, participants say the changes were advantageous to the participants.

The changes were the result of discussions that the Cinemalaya organizing committee (Organic) had with last year's participants, said Jardin during the festival launch at the CCP lobby last week.

"One of the main revisions states that anyone who has not directed more than three films is free to join the festival," noted competition director Jessica Zafra-Pobre.

Evaluation

Pobre cited the case of director Jim Libiran whose film, "Batyoko," won one of last year's runners and whose "Serenidad" is one of the eight full-length feature films in this year's event.

The festival opens July 17 and ends July 23.

"We always try to improve," said Jardin, "After this festival, we will have an evaluation."

A total of 108 full-length feature entries were submitted to the selection committee in September last year, said Pobre.

The selection committee was composed of Ms. Monta Jean Dayrit, Jerome Tan, Jeffrey Jerusalen, Armando "Bing" Lao and Inquirer entertainment columnist Hector U. Ibarra.

"The finalists were asked to submit a finished script instead of just a detailed enumeration of their films," explained Pobre. "On June 29, Lao conducted a one-day writing workshop for them. A month later, their scripts were finished."

On Feb. 20, the finalists began production and on May 30, final copies were submitted. Each finalist is entitled to a P500,000 seed grant from the Cinemalaya.

Disqualified

Finalist Joe Laurente "Siga Ang Ulan ng Ayuhay," was disqualified for failing to complete requirements, while Glenn John Cruz's final copy of his entry "Lansangan" did not beat the May 30 deadline.

Another 10 finalists for short film honors, were chosen by selection committee members Emily Abrera, Nancine "Jun" Reyes, Jennifer Arcellana, lensmen Jose "Butch" Perez and lensmen "Jocko" Sotejarado. Short features do not get subsidies.)

"We give young filmmakers all the help possible," said festival coordinating committee chair Bobbie Tan.

Nick Joseph Shalin, a first-year student of the University of the Philippines who made "Ang Huling Araw ng Linggo," said he sought the help

CONTINUED ON A23

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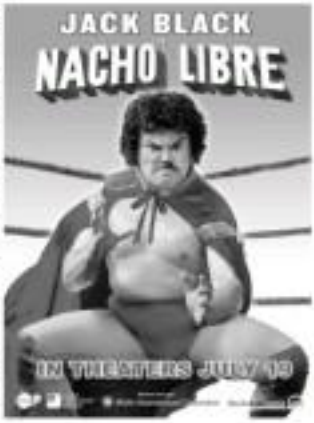


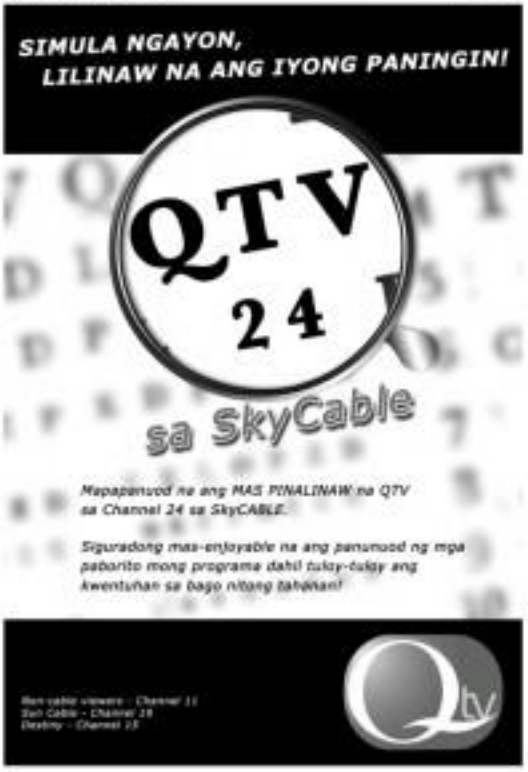
ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2006

Cinemalaya...

REMEMBER LOUIE HEREDIA?

Whatever happened to Louie Heredia? He makes a guest appearance on "MYX Live!," hosted by Jim Pargas, left, as Freestyle on the music channel MYX. Louie, right mic/stand seen in "Rewind," the reunion concert of the biggest 1990s artists, and "Wires," the 23rd Anniversary Concert in honor of composer Vehnee Saturno.



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4 INITIAL D	9 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
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ERMITA

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4 BATAS MILITAR	7 LOVE WRECKED

METRO EAST

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3 BATAS MILITAR	6 INITIAL D

OTISQUARE MALABON / PIONEER

OTISQUARE MALABON	PIONEER
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2	2 BE HAPPY
3 RESERVE	3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
4 RESERVE	4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

STA. ROSA / LIPA

STA. ROSA	LIPA
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2 SEE NO EVIL	2 BE HAPPY
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 THE MUM
4 BE HAPPY	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

DASMARIÑAS / ANGELES

DASMARIÑAS	ANGELES
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 BE HAPPY	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 BATAS MILITAR	3 BATAS MILITAR
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 BE HAPPY

IMUS / STARMILLS

IMUS	STARMILLS
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2 BE HAPPY	2 BE HAPPY
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2	3 BATAS MILITAR
4 BATAS MILITAR	4 TAKE THE LEAD
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
	6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

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BACOLOD	ILOILO
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2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 LOVE WRECKED
3 SEE NO EVIL	3 SEE NO EVIL
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Local stars' woes

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

In the Philippines, stars are generally spared such helicopter risks and dangers. But they have their own share of woes that make their lives miserable in different ways.

Local show biz have-nots seem keen to contend with the dusty lee of their priority fans have their own woes that popularity to their personage, so they feel that they can wrestle in their idols' presence.

Unless fanfanatics set limits only on, fans become that they "own" the artists they're helped inflate with stardom.

This was dicely counter to show biz practice in the west, where stars feel that the only thing they owe their fans is "a good performance."

Local fans' excessive personal view of their relationship with their

WHY ARE KIDS

ROUNDUP

Record breaker

LOS ANGELES—Johnny Depp's "Dead" story, "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," ruling the world, has plundered the US and Canadian box office, with "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" raking in a record $132 million in its first weekend.

Animated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at 4,133 theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations, official tracker:

1) "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," $132M; 2) "Superman Returns," $20.400M; 3) "The Devil Wears Prada," $15.44M; 4) "Click," $12.5M; 5) "Cars," $9.83M;

6) "Snakes Lilies," $5.2M; 7) "The Lake House," $3.66M; 8) "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift," $2.5M; 9) "Hard Candy," $1.98M; 10) "The Break-Up," $1.45M.

Why are there so many young has-beens?

From page A1-A

title is unrefuted by the sheer hit rates and entertainment talk shows on TV which lose to pit their against each other, unearth nonstick and generally force on the unpopular side of celebrity prime time.

Like the fans, these hit talk show reporters believe that stars' wannabes — conduct, attitudes and so concerned, is grist for the entertainment mills, and hardmates have to take the bad with the good in terms of media coverage, because they need the "publicity."

Stars' bets are also pay to their relatives' and families' exploitation because "these hangers-on believe that, since popular artists earn a lot of money, they have the obligation to support their extra-ordinary "dependents."

Invariably, these by no longer pays as much as it used to, so many stars are having a hard time making ends meet. But they have to sustain the illusion of popularity and wealth, or their "retainers' demands are all the more unbearable.

These days, stars also have to worry about the new "thrones" (semiopera) where it seems no one wants.

In the past, producers used to discover talents who could have long and profitable careers. At present, however, the entertainment scene is so problematic, and fans' tastes have become so fickle, that who stars are launched to temporary rather than permanent popularity.

That's why we see so many new stars launched with a great deal of hype who are kept very busy for some months and make a lot of money — only to fade away after just a year of manufactured popularity.

In a sense, the entertainment world is littered with many young has-beens — and there's nothing more tragic than so much youthful promise being unfortunately and quickly discarded like those people.

Momos test

MANILA, Philippines A meeting all those interested to join the ranks of Momos members would, while to take to qualifying test on Sept. 16, anytime from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Pilipino Room, G/F Oakwood, Gemora Makati. Seating with in the top one percent of the test is the only requirement for joining Momos.

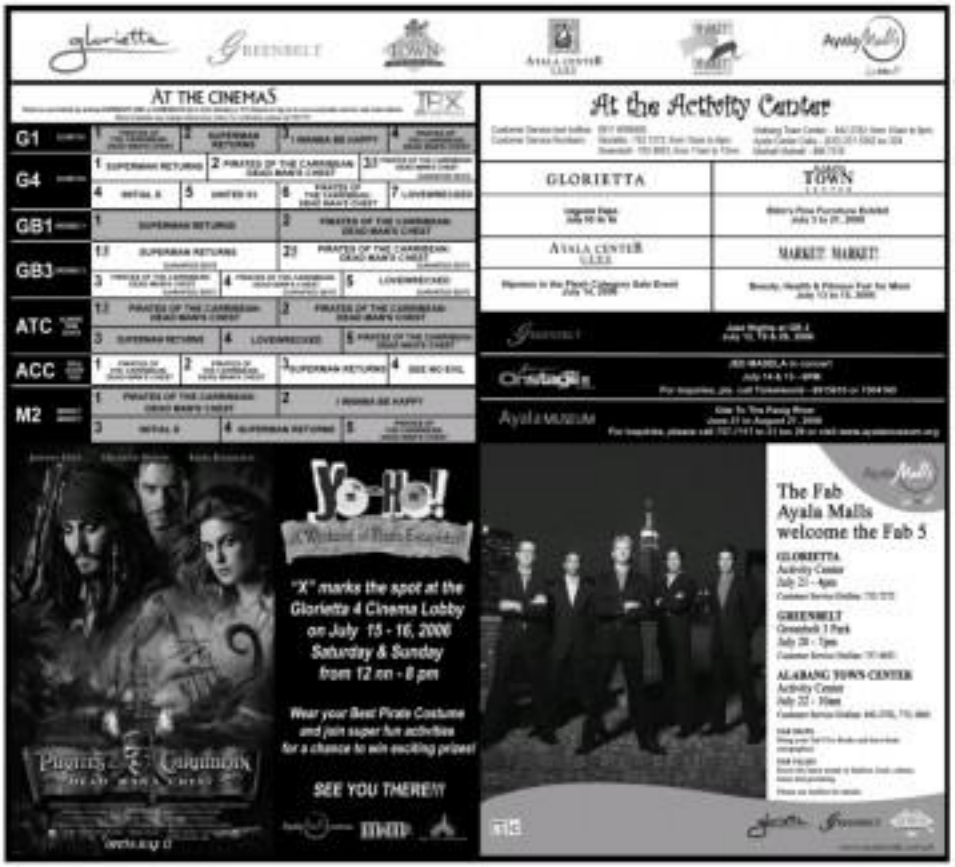
Of the type known as "abstract reasoning," the Momos test is a culture-fair and does not test for math or language skills. Providing a forum for intellectual pursuits, Momos membership currently numbers 100,000 in over 80 countries worldwide. Call 449-9522.

CCP dance show

TOGETHER with Columbia International, Asian TV will host all interested public school teachers and dance handlers and pupils at the 3 p.m. matinee on July 9 of the "Unpublished Dances of the Philippines" performance by Ramona Gloucester's dance company at the CCP.

The program will enable audiences to re-

demand Philippine musical work and whose indigenous premieres of the Bayot, Caribbean, Muslim and Ivatan communities. Tinikling and Pi teachers should benefit greatly from the experience. For tribute courtesy of Gloucester, call Ada Prieto at 552-1529 or 0918-9000000.



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I Wanna Be Happy

Stars Gloria Romero, Eddie Garcia, Cherry Pie Picache, Diana Zubiri, Joey Marquez
Directed by Jose Javier Reyes

DOES Dina Alcantara describe this movie, graded 3 by the Cinema Evaluation Board, as a "compact family comedy ... [that] energizes our relatively ... [t]epressed household"? Romero's home has domineering husband (Garcia) on the eve of their 50th anniversary—hearing their grown-up children and grandchildren confused and exasperated. Director Reyes volunteers that this movie is based on his 1990s teleplay titled "Love Daddy," published by Anvil; Charlie Ilo and directed by Boots Gallogo. "I just expanded the script and added new characters," Reyes relates. "The elderly couple is partly inspired by my parents. In a marriage, two people must grow together. It's universal the must logo ends."

Initial D

Stars Jay Chou, Edison Chen, Anne Suna-

INITIAL D

si, Anthony Wong
Directed by Andrew Lau and Alan Mak

Based on Shuichi Shigeno's immensely popular race-car manga (Japanese comic book), the Hong Kong film version beat Earth Valley Ida and Mrs. Smith and Batman at the tills last year. It grossed HK$107.86 million, harnessing roar of only two certified moneymakers in Hong Kong in 2005 (the other was Andy Lau's "Wai Tsi You're Old-

er"). Directed by the same scriptwriting team behind "Infernal Affairs," this "action-packed roadtrip drama" chronicles the adventures of gas station attendant-tofu delivery boy Takumi Fujiwara (Chou) who is also an aspiring race-car daredevil. Andrew fan of the Hollywood Reporter feels it as a "slick summer vehicle," Stina Chyn of Film Threat points out that the visuals "magnify the intensity of racing scenes." IGN Movies of the New York Post thinks "the racing scenes are well done; underneath, they're too often interrupted by a cliché-filled story about one-note characters."

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest

Stars Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Bill Nighy
Directed by Gore Verbinski

This sequel serves as "prelude" to Part Three, which will complete the "Pirates" trilogy by May next year. The recently captain Jack Sparrow (Depp) must pay a blood debt to Davey Jones of the Flying Dutchman (Bill Nighy)—or risk eternal damnation, this circumstance also disrupt the wedding plans of Will Turner (Bloom) and Elizabeth Swann (Knightley). Critical appraisal is mixed. Ty Burr of the Boston Globe complains: "All that's missing is a plot, entering dialogue, comic timing, and a reason to exist. Presumably, these will come in the third installment." Kyle Smith of the New York Post counters: "The ghost is swashbuilt with rage-ridden and physical comedy, without a doubloon's worth of the scary suspense and buffoonish comedy [of the original]." Erik Hungerford of the Hollywood Reporter is impressed: "This production is a vast, expensive, sprawling affair that never feels out of control, thanks to the assured direction."

Batas Militar

Stars Mark Lapid, Nanie Gracia, Micah Anthony Bermudez, Maynard Lapid
Directed by Jose Lapid Jr.
Produced by the Procinema Corporation of Mark Lapid's compa-

ny MX. Films, this action flick tackles fraternal loyalty and military corruption. After the puzzling death of his younger brother (Maynard), an army captain (Mark) embarks on a quest—not just to solve the mystery but to expose the members of a military unit, led by the father of his girlfriend (Nanie). This slapdash murder, the directorial debut of Mark's uncle, Jess Lapid Jr., who once worked as fight instructor/director in the movies of Eda Mazozzo and Gene Montano. Be guided Angel Locsin in her midriff-baring scenes on the TV show "Sisters." The director is also a scuba-diving instructor, that's why. He insists, "We didn't cheat on the underwater scenes—especially in Mark's fight scenes."

IN THIS ISSUE
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BUSINESS
Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mamaril

PC BUYER'S GUIDE cyber shop PROMO

Exports surged 17.3% to $3.88B in May

Shares close higher

Share of electronics down to 59% of total earnings

By Michelle V. Rerra

THE COUNTRY'S EXPORTS MAINTAINED A DOUble-digit growth in May, rising 17.3 percent to $3.88 billion from a year ago, as global demand for electronics remained robust.

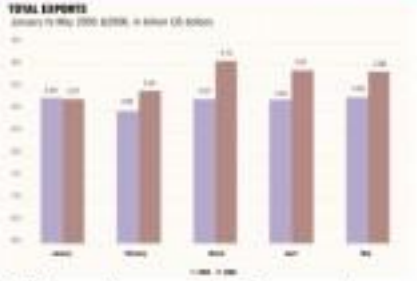
This brought total exports for the first six months of the year to $19.69 billion, or 16 percent higher than the previous year's level.

"The 16-percent growth in January to May made it clear that the 8-percent export growth target for the full year would already be easily surpassed," Ireneo Reyes, director for policy and planning at the Neda, said.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) said Filipino exporters continued to benefit from the increasing demand for laptops, cellular phones, digital cameras and other electronic items that are the Philippines' major export products.

Documents from the National Statistics Office (NSO), an independent agency of the Neda, showed that electronic exports reached

EXPORTS /A1



DOF sacks corruption probers

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) slashed down the number of its personnel tasked with conducting lifestyle checks on income collectors to confine to it the urgency of the Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS) program, which have allegations of extortion activities.

In a memorandum, Finance Undersecretary Candelaria Ideniliza de Jesus-Amatong and officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and of Customs that the list of authorized RIPS investigators had been reduced recently 17 from an original 28.

RIPS is the unit of the DOF tasked with conducting lifestyle checks on employees and officials of the BIR and the BOC who are suspected of corruption.

The move to trim down the number of investigative personnel of the DOF followed the

DOF /A2

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Subic gets $7.5M in investments

Innove's $6-M project to help former US base a cybercity

By Ronnel w. domingo

THE SUBIC METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY has approved the registration (2) projects that will bring into the freeport $7.5 million in investments and create 800 jobs.

SBMA administrator Armand C. Arreza said the biggest project was the $6.3-million project of Ulubio Telecom subsidiary Innove Communications.

Innove will provide an end-to-end telecommunications solutions and a complete range of telecommunications services to business and residential customers in Subic Freeport.

Innove Communications intends to help the SBMA realize its vision to develop a world-class ICT infrastructure that will make the Subic Bay Freeport a cybercity and consequently, make it more attractive to investors engaged in related fields," Arreza said.

Also, Arreza said that of the total investments committed, 12 percent or $1.1 million was in the form of foreign direct investment.

Also approved was Taiwanese firm Taiwing International Trading Inc.'s export trading and logistics warehousing business worth $500,000.

The other projects approved were Batman Bend Sky English Fluency Academy Inc. worth $340,000 and Freeport ITC language business worth $700,000.

Sapphire Instruments Subic Bay Inc. will invest $120,000 to assemble and export different test probe for high voltage power measurement. It will operate an engineering center for research and development.

Tagwin Green Builder Inc. would lay out $300,000 to engage in manufacturing, processing and exporting of granules and marble.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is interviewed by journalists following a meeting with officials of Sumitomo Corp. of Japan and subsidiary Sumitomo Prieto Corp. (Semitic). Ms.Arroyo is flanked by (from L) Shinsuke Ito, Sumitomo Manila office general manager; Junichi Saito, Sumitomo chair; Jesus Marcaida, Sumitomo general manager; Yoshi Maruyama, Sumitomo senior managing director; and Sumitomo president Paul Cayetano. Sumitomo announced its plan to expand its banana plantation in southern Philippines with P1 billion in fresh investment.

4-year bond rate up 187 bps to 8.37%

By Michelle V. Rerra

THE 4-YEAR TREASURY BOND RATE rose breached the 8-percent mark to hit 8.375 percent in yesterday's auction, as volatility in the international market continued to influence domestic interest rates.

The new rate for the government's four-year borrowings was 187.5 basis points higher than the 6.5 percent recorded in the auction in May.

The Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee had accepted the bids despite the higher rates, as demand for the government security remained strong.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz had said an increase in the rates was acceptable if it was backed by a huge volume of bids.

"It (rate rise) is 187.5 basis points higher, but rates are also moving upward in the international market," Cruz said.

He noted that the new rate for the four-year bond was still lower than the rates for less-year bonds in the secondary market.

He said that in the secondary market, the 4-year bonds were trading between 8.5 and 8.75 percent.

Tenders for the 4-year bonds reached P21.191 billion, more than three times higher than the government's debt-offering of only P7 billion.

The BTr's auction committee accepted P7 billion worth of bids, saving the government's entire borrowing program for yesterday's auction.

The increases in interest rates here and overseas were triggered by the successive hikes in the US interest rates.

Cruz, however, said interest rates were expected to subside soon as the US Fed had already hinted its intention to put an end to the successive rate hikes. He added that impending economic indicators in the country would create a positive influence on the interest rate movement.

DTI chief sees capital inflows picking up soon

TRADE SECRETARY PETER B. FAVILA YESterday reaffirmed his optimism that investment would pick up due to "renewed investor confidence" although total investments approved by his department in the first half went down by a fifth to P160 billion.

Data from the Department of Trade and Industry showed that the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority registered projects amounted to a total of P160.25 billion from January to June.

Of the amount, 84 percent or P43.8 billion represented foreign direct investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, real estate and information and communication technology sectors.

In a statement, Favila said President Macapagal-Arroyo had put in place a robust framework that acted as strict adherence to macroeconomic fundamentals, investments in vital infrastructure, and increased revenue through new taxes and enhanced collection.

"The results of our reform programs include a rising investment climate, improving performance of export winners and jobs created for Filipinos showed that the reforms breakthroughs or the measures had been filtered to the microeconomy," he said.

Favila added that sectors such as mining, logistics, health and wellness, tourism and Detailed services are being harnessed through public-private partnerships and are providing new opportunities for investors, Favila said.

Favila, who accompanied the President in her visit in Europe, said he had "very good discussions" with prospective investors in Rome and Madrid. Ronnel W. Domingo

Guarantee on port loan questioned

A GROUP OF MINDANAO-BASED MAYORS and agriculture traders has questioned the granting of a government guarantee to a P1.6-billion loan used for the construction of a port in Santiago, Caraga.

The Philippine Guarantee Corporation Inc. (SGI) said in a statement that the government must explain why a guarantee was granted despite doubts about the project's viability mainly due to its location and the absence of support facilities in the area.

Philguar, an agency under the Department of Finance, guarantees loans for major development projects.

The group said the facility "is too distant and too risky to be useful to local and international agriculture traders."

Farmer-leader and 300 chief Edwin Fernandez said the port's location was not strategic and that there was no infrastructure support to receive and disburse of farm products to say the least.

The said of using this port would only raise the price of goods because of its distance to the market, Fernandez said.

World Bank backs compromise in Doha Round

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD BANK HAS URGED THE G-6 countries and representatives from the developing world to accept a compromise proposal on the Doha Round of negotiations under the World Trade Organization during a crucial meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia this Monday.

The call was made by World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz in a letter to the United States, Germany, Japan, France, Italy, Russia, Australia and Canada during the meeting held in St. Petersburg on the sidelines of the annual Group of Eight (G-8) summit.

The G-6 countries and representatives from the developing world to accept a compromise proposal on the Doha Round of negotiations under the World Trade Organization during a crucial meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia this Monday.

The call was made by World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz in a letter to the United States, Germany, Japan, France, Italy, Russia, Australia and Canada during the meeting held in St. Petersburg on the sidelines of the annual Group of Eight (G-8) summit.

"While successfully concluding the Doha round will depend on a detailed formula and a painstaking technical process, there is the opportunity for the leaders gathered in St. Petersburg to provide the momentum essential to success. Next week, a collective pledge by the United States to reduce agriculture subsidies, by the European Union to improve market access and the +5 countries to limit tariffs on manufactures (a pledge that Indian Chief Negotiator Pascal Lamy's "20-30-20" targets) could help and a deal," Wolfowitz said in a letter released to the media yesterday.

Lamy's proposed 20-30-20 compromise involved an agreement between the G-20 "middle ground" and the developed countries on agricultural market access, a "Swiss" formula for industrial tariff cuts with a ceiling limit of "20" for selected developing countries, and a ceiling of some $20 billion for trade-distorting US payment programs.

"The world's poorest people, the 1.2 billion living on less than $1 a day, are counting on your good intentions being translated into decisive action. Just as last year when your resolve political leadership launched the historic Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative," he said.

A pro-development result, the World Bank chief said, would yield gains for rich and poor alike.

"It would be an important step on the path to full liberalization which could eventually generate $300 billion a year in additional production for the world's economy. Developing countries could gain by as much as $96 billion alone, benefiting annual bilateral assistance efforts," Wolfowitz said.

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Shares ...

From page B1

ent fund to follow, turning investors to mark a time after a volatile period.

The composite index was up 4.38 points to 2,245.22 after trading in a narrow band between 2,230.74 and 2,248.08. The value turnover was 621.20 million shares worth P805 million.

The broader all-shares index gained 1.81 points to 1,206.41.

Despite the headline index gains, losers led risers 44 to 27 on sectoral selling in small capitalized stocks, with 43 stocks closing flat.

"There's very little reason to move the market either way," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

"Investors are now talking a broader after months of volatility calling much of early."

Dealers said the market would likely remain sluggish this month ahead of the release of quarterly corporate results and government fiscal data, with investors choosing short-term trade amid continuing concern over regional security, high oil prices and the outlook for US interest rates. AFP

Exports surged ...

From page B1

$2.29 billion, up 9.9 percent from $2.083 billion a year ago.

Arroyo noted that the increase in exports was no longer as heavily dependent on electronics as before, the said efforts to diversify the country's exports were beginning to show results.

Stressing the impact on Philippine exports of last year's slump in global demand for electronics, economic officials had stressed the need to diversify exports to protect the country from demand-side risks.

"Programs to diversify exports, such as trade fairs by the Department of Trade and Industry that help expose Filipino-made products abroad, already started to bear fruit," he said.

Non-electronic exports, the statements, which used to account for 70 percent of the country's total exports, accounted for only 50.1 percent in May.

Garments were the country's second top export earner, generating $238.61 million, or 23.8 percent higher than last year's. Garments had a 6.3 percent share of the total export earnings in May.

Exports of cathodes of refined copper, the third top earner, reached $146.39 million, or 287.3 percent higher than the $54.69 a year ago.

Other top exports were: woodcrafts and furniture ($84.38 million), cocoa oil ($65.87 million), ignition and other wiring sets ($57.68 million), petroleum products ($53.57 million), fresh bananas ($42.79 million), and metal components ($34.89 million).

The United States was the biggest export market in May, accounting for $783.43 million or 18.1 percent of the total.

Japan was the second top export destination with $673.15 million or 17.3 percent of total exports for the month. Exports from exports to Japan were 23.3 percent higher than the year ago figure.

Other top export markets were Singapore ($281.24 million); China ($143.39 million); Hong Kong ($121.71 million); the Netherlands ($107.90 million); Malaysia ($105.87 million); Taiwan ($103.61 million); Korea ($100.31 million), and Thailand ($101.43 million).

DOF sacks corruption probers

From page B1

complaint filed by a Customs employee against four BIR investigators for alleged extortion.

Victor Barros, Customs police sergeant, accused the BIR investigators of asking P300,000 from him in exchange for clearance from a suspected blueprint check. Barros said the suspects have months of not him a Ford Ranger in the blueprint check unless he gave them the money.

The four were William Arbol, Crispin Atlantic, Jesus Bueno and Leon Acuna. They were among the 11 BIR personnel that were stripped of their functions as members blueprint checks.

The seven former BIR investigators who were asked to leave the BIR program were Rubet Fragano, Fay Pesares, Reynaldo Lazaro, Joselito Bernardo, Senen Castro, Ismael Lorano, and Vivian Reyangel. The finance official, however, did not say whether or not these seven were also facing formal complaints of extortion.

Bitonkora said trimming down the original list of BIR investigators was necessary to build the image of the office and help boost the government's anti-corruption drive.

"We are appealing to our revenue and customs personnel to speak up and report BIR investigators who are trying to extort money from them," Bitonkora said.

The allegations of extortion against BIR personnel has somehow stained the credibility of the office in pursuing the government's anti-corruption drive. But the DOF said this would not hinder the office to continue conducting blindfold checks, which the office has been using with a good strategy of curbing corruption.

Bitonkora noted that the complaint filed by Barros against four BIR officials was not reason for the Customs official to be exempted from a blueprint check. He said that there was no personal grudge between Barros for alleged corrupt activities.

He said BIR would be undergoing a capability enhancement program following the opening of a $1.4 million grant by the US-based Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC). The grant, to be disbursed in September, is intended to train BIR personnel and purchase needed equipment. Michelle V. Rerra

GMA 7 says it can still get Ch 27

By Dante L. Lucas

GMA NETWORK INC. MAY STILL DOMINO to have the programs of its subsidiary aired over the channel 27 slot of Central Cable TV despite an agreement that seems to have settled the dispute with the Lopez-owned Sun last month.

In a statement sent to the bourse, a GMA 7 spokesperson said that although it has agreed to broadcast the signals of its QTV 11 unit over channel 24 of SkyCable...General Cable TV's trade name—the network "has not restricted its right over cable channel 27."

"To specify, the agreement letter signed by GMA Network, ZOE Broadcasting, and General CATV states that, 'for the avoidance of doubt, this agreement is without prejudice to the right of GMA to QTV 27 to be aired/carried on General CATV in the future if and when GMA decides to air Channel 27's own programs in accordance with the NTC (National Telecommunications Commission) decision," GMA's corporate communications head Butch S. Huguet said.

His statement comes after GMA 7 announced an agreement with SkyCable to transmit its unit's broadcast signals over

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Philex Corp. to revive mine

By Christine A. Gaylican

PHILEX MINING CORP. WILL REVIVE its Padcal gold project in Benguet due to the steady rise in gold and copper prices, a company official said.

The Padcal project, which was shut down in 2002 due to flooding, still has some reserves and Philex president Pedro Revest said in a briefing that the company was seriously considering reopening it.

"There is now merit at the mine and it primarily involves rehabilitation and reinvestment," Revest added.

Philex was encouraged to revive the mine by the rise in the prices of copper to $2.548 this year from $1.40 last year, and of gold from $400 $561 on average.

Revest said the record prices would boost the company's operating revenue once the mine is back in full operation.

The company reported a 377 percent jump in its consolidated net income for the first three months this year to P574.5 million from P120.4 million last year.

Philex said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange was attributed to the shipment of 200,892 tons of ore containing 9.4 million pounds of copper and 35,405 ounces of gold during the period.

Philex produces copper, gold and silver and gold bullion from its copper-gold mine in Padcal, a town in the northern province of Benguet.

New group takes over Legend hotel, casino

Services firm named liquidator by HK court

By Reuben Laguipo
JDI General Luzon Staff,
and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HONG KONG PRESIDENT CORP.—YET ANOTHER property arm facing the spectacle of the Legend Hotel and Casino here after the Hong Kong high court placed the company under liquidation last June 9.

Appointed liquidator by the Hong Kong court was financial restructuring expert Ahuja & Hamid, which immediately dismissed Elmo Biso Siew as chief operating officer of the legend International Resorts Ltd., the casino's operator.

Tasked to take over the day to day operation of the company was Ahuja & Hamid director Martin Fernandez.

The appointment of a liquidator comes from a petition filed last November 3, 2004 by Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Inc., a creditor of LIRL, to liquidate or sell the assets of LIRL for its failure to pay its debts.

Morgan Stanley claimed in its petition before the Hong Kong court (the equivalent of the Philippines' Court of Appeals) that LIRL owes it and another investment firm, Avenue Capital, roughly $120 million.

LIRL owes another P500 million to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which ordered LIRL to close its casino operations two months ago over the unpaid bills. Lawyer Consuelo Ejer Santos, counsel for the liquidators, said that under Hong Kong law, the high court can place financially distressed companies under liquidation and appoint liquidators to rehabilitate the ailing firms.

LIRL, which operates a hotel and a casino here, has its main office in Hong Kong.

Biso Siew rose on Monday when he refused to recognize his successors. He was seen throwing Flynn's group out of the hotel's lobby.

Flynn added that he had visited the Subic properties on Monday but was blocked by Siew from implementing management changes in the hotel and Subic properties as part of the liquidation proceedings.

He claimed Biso had prevented his access to the Subic properties, consisting of Legenda Suites, Grand Seasons Hotel and Legend Hotel, which are also in the name.

In a press conference after the incident, Biso said the liquidators order has yet to be recognized by Philippine courts.

Flynn, meanwhile, assured employees that they would be shouldered by the new team.

"Employees added: "We see this opportunity as Legend to rebuild the business and protect the jobs of the more than 1,000 people that work there. We have already formed the clear view that rehabilitation is the best way to maximize value for all stakeholders, and with its existing operations and the prospect of regaining the casino's license we believe that Legend has a sound and viable future."

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Big screen TV sales up

By Rosvel W. Dantiago

LEADING APPLIANCES VENDOR Abenson is banking on liquid crystal display television sets to boost its sales as more Filipinos are buying big screen TVs.

Abenson president Winston Lim said yesterday in revealing that Filipinos' viewing taste has become sophisticated, thus they want more likely-or-not bigger screens should they decide to upgrade.

CEDia a study made by global research group Consumer Knowledge or CK, Lim said that the popularity of LCDs in Metro Manila alone grew by 382 percent—in terms of unit sales—in the past year.

Lim said Abenson sales of LCD TVs grew 300 percent in the same period.

"The local market is following the global trend in adopting LCD, which is the fastest growing segment in the big screen segment," Lim said.

He explained that while screens bigger than 35 inches were considered "big," the demarcation line for mainstream buyers has now increased to 37 and 40 inches.

For Lim, said falling prices would boost sales of LCDs as DIC figures show that 32-inch units were selling at half the price of last year, while prices of 37-inch and 40-inch sets fell by 30 percent and 40 percent, respectively.

He said a 32-inch LCD TV currently sells at almost P100,000, but that trends point to a commercial downturn in prices.

"We believe LCDs will be top sellers in the next three years, with one out of five households having a big screen TV," Lim said.

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GMA 7...

Finance p43

chanted 24 hours of the channel and 27 others it had recently donated.

The management memorandum was announced after telecommunications regulators ruled in favor of GMA 7 Network in its dispute with SkyCable over the channel assignment.

Had GMA 7 opted to oppose it, full rights under the NTC's decision, it would have displaced the popular ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) from the disputed channel slot.

An NTC official familiar with the case said GMA 7 saved the regulator's decision as a bargaining chip, but never had any intention of applying the full force of the newest ruling.

"They only wanted to use it to make sure that their satellite signals would not be assigned to channel 99, for example, in some other [channel assignment]," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Without the NTC's decision favoring GMA 7, the effect said SkyCable would have been able to assign the signals of GMA 7 or its main "anywhere" with impunity.

"With the order, [GMA 7] can approach SkyCable and bargain for a good [channel] assignment," the official said, explaining the network's omnibus move.

Brokers join Ayala offering

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange said Ayala Corp.'s P5.6-billion preferred offer tranche of shares of preferred shares has started last July 10 with the participation of the member brokers.

PSE presidents and chief executive officer Francis Lim said investment institutions, who want to join the offering, may source their applications for allocations through leading participants of the PSE.

Lim said the trading participants have until noon of Wednesday, July 12 to accept the request for allocations from investors.

After the July 12 deadline, the investors may course their request for allocations directly to the underwriters of the Ayala Corporation offering.

Ayala Corporation is offering 30 million preferred shares at P100 a share. Interested investors may buy a minimum of 100 shares worth P10,000.

Valdes vs Valdes

[illegible] INHERITANCE FIGHT HAS ERUPTED among the 30 children of accounting legend Carlos J. Valdes, with his eldest now facing three criminal charges for allegedly having acquired his parents' Bajada property through a spurious deed of sale.

Gabriel A.E. Valdes, 61, the father of fashion designer Ben Valdes, was said to have bought for more than P22 million his parents' 7,214.34-square-meter property at 2 Cecilio Apostol St., adjacent to the Mansion House.

The questioned deed of sale was effected in December 2005 with the signatures of his parents, except that Gabriel A.S. Valdes' mother had passed away two years earlier.

The 87-year-old father—a former ambassador to Italy, the Vatican and Japan during the Marcos years—is in frail health and his business interests are now being administered by the second, according to the grapevine.

In his defense, the accused instead blamed the notary public, lawyer Hermenegildo Montes, for the irregularities, "who made it appear that Carlos J. Valdes, who was in and out of hospitals at that time, appeared before him and (executed) that false deed of sale."

The eldest sibling claimed the youngest, Jose Mario A.S. Valdes, 48, not only filed the complaint but also fabricated the documents to implicate him.

The accused faces two estafa cases before Regular RTC Judge Fernando Daoanosan, and another case for use of fabricated document before the Taguig Municipal Trial Court.

According to the grapevine, because of the suit, Jose Mario is now being ejected by his eldest brother from the sprawling family farm in Tagaytay. Batangas, where, despite his Italian education, Jose Mario has been posted by his father to manage the farm at a measly P3,000 a month.

The eldest Valdes sibling himself lives in North Forbes, in a property owned by the late journalist Fe Padilla, whose daughter, Pamela, he is married to. The Valdeses also own the seven-story CJV building on Aguirre Street in Legaspi Village, which still houses the father's once-enhanced law office.

COCKTAILS

Victor C. Aguavive

Notwithstanding his stature in society, the Supreme Court in 1998 suspended the former ambassador for one year, for having allowed his law firm to represent the estate of Jose Hidalgo against its creditors while his account (from represented) was under creditors.

The Carlos J. Valdes accountancy practice has also been reduced to a ghost of its glorious self, after the walkout of 14 of the 15 partners in 1999.

Part of the contested Valdes property held, right in Bajada, include what is now known as the Antonyo Cove, which has since been bought and developed by Ayala Land into a luxury resort.

Money-go-round

● CONSTRUCTION magnate Isidro Consunji has taken over the CEO post of Semirara Mining Corp. from his younger brother Victor, who has agreed to slide down as chief operating officer.

● ARAMCO STRUCT, which built the Cebu tunnel from to Clark during the Ramos years, has been awarded a subcontract to build a tunnel for the new Quezon International Airport.

Another tunnel CEO Orlando Angeles is now rushing the tunnel documents of more than 400 engineers and construction crew to be deployed for the prestige project.

Heard through the grapevine

THE OWNERSHIP of the new De La Salle school in Batangas, Simon, administered by anti-Gibbs Bro. Bernard Oca is in jeopardy since it is part of the Valdes estate that had been "donated" to the Catholic Church by the eldest Valdes son without the consent of the other Valdes heirs.

(Email: antimalec_pal@pldtdsl.net or cocktails_pal@yahoo.com)

San Miguel, Coca-Cola in talks on fate of local bottling venture

US firm may buy back RP unit

By Elizabeth L. Sandino

SOFTDRINK BEVERAGE GIANT THE COCA-Cola Co. may buy back a majority stake in its Philippine bottler from its local partner San Miguel Corp.

A statement issued by San Miguel to the Philippine Stock Exchange said the local brewer, which holds 65 percent of the venture, was in talks with Atlanta-based Coca-Cola over their venture, Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI).

"The company and the Coca-Cola Co. announce their discussions on the ownership of CCBPI. The discussions, at this time, include negotiations over The Coca-Cola Co. taking a majority stake in, and management and operational control of, CCBPI," San Miguel said.

It stressed that no definite agreements have been reached so far.

CCBPI is one of the top 10 bottlers of Coca-Cola worldwide.

Further reports said that Coca-Cola was set to terminate the bottling agreement with San Miguel amid weak sales.

Sources said San Miguel and Coca-Cola were initially reviewing the terms relating to the price at which San Miguel pays for Coke's concentrate, a key factor that determines the cost for bottling the popular beverage brand.

They added that the talks have taken a major turn, discussing the possible divestment by San Miguel of its stake in the soft drinks venture.

CCBPI—which includes Coca-Cola Bottling Corp. and Philippine Beverage Partners—accounts for 73 percent of San Miguel's total revenues.

In terms of operating income, CCBPI accounts for 3 percent of San Miguel's total.

Recently, San Miguel postponed a proposed hybrid share offer by San Miguel Capital Funding Ltd. after the planned issue of dollar-denominated and dollar-linked notes allowing interested sales in one of San Miguel's subsidiaries, Philippine Beverage Partners Inc. (PhilBev).

The investment bank had said that the terms of San Miguel's partnership with Coke might be affected.

San Miguel acquired in 2001 a majority stake in CCBPI, but was belabored by the beverage firm's weak sales.

Under the agreement with Coca-Cola, San Miguel will take care of of spending and distributing the brand, while the American firm will provide advertising support and promotional activities.

Analysts had said that if San Miguel were to continue with its Coke franchise, it may want a better deal on advertising spending, royalties, new products and size cuts to be competitive.

They added that San Miguel and Coca-Cola should rethink their strategy since market share in the beverage industry had been shrinking due to the entry of new products.

ePLDT clinches SPi acquisition for $135M

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE Co.'s (PLDT) information and communication technology arm, ePLDT, completed its acquisition of business process outsourcing (BPO) giant SPi Technologies Inc. for $135.24 million.

The sale involved an advance payment of $16.43 million to owner parent company SPi Tech. L.P.'s team in 2003 Bank Singapore. Also under the deal, ePLDT assumed $7 million of SPi Tech's debts.

The acquisition places PLDT at the forefront of the Philippines' continued growth as a major hub for BPO services. It combines SPi's 6,500 employees and 4,200 seats available with those of ePLDT's Boston call center group. The resulting firm will have more than 11,000 employees and about 8,200 seats in its BPO call center operations.

SPi is the world's second-largest pure-play BPO company and the only biggest independent provider to the industry to customers include Fortune 100 companies, non-profit organizations and government agencies in the financial services, healthcare, legal and publishing markets.

The BPO giant's main services include content editorial and production, litigation support services, electronic data discovery, medical transcription, database processing and management and transaction processing. The BPO company services their customers in 19 locations, including onsite facilities and offices in the Philippines, India, US, Europe, China and Vietnam.

On the other hand, the ePLDT Boston call center group—consisting of Pacnet Services Inc., Vocativ Systems Inc. and ePLDT Boston Inc.—operates seven call center facilities in Makati, Taguig, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Quezon City and Iloilo. These offices render primarily voice-based services to large US-based clients and corporations. *Jhon T. Richardson*

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BUSINESS

Meralco denies hand in Masinloc supply deal

Power firm says it won't compromise consumers' interests

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ-LED MANILA ELECTRIC Co. yesterday denied allegations that it was in an "alliance" with the government to seal a supply deal with 7509 Holdings Corporation Inc., the winning bidder for the 600-megawatt (MW) Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales.

According to antitrust groups, the government, in an effort to salvage the Masinloc transaction, was allegedly negotiating a deal with Meralco that would entail a power supply contract between YNH and the distribution utility.

In exchange, Meralco would receive several concessions, including the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of its pending 14.76 centavos-per-kilowatt-hour rate hike petition, and the favorable endorsement of its dispute with the National Power Corp. over a 10-year supply deal that lapsed in 2004.

Quoting his sources, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said that during President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent trip to Spain, she and Meralco chair Manuel Lopez met with officials of Iberdrola shareholder Union Fenosa to convince them to allow the power distributor to enter more supply deals with YNH.

The Spanish conglomerate allegedly opposed the deal, Reyes said.

But Meralco vice president for corporate communications Mpi Cana denied there was such an agreement between Lopez and the government.

"We would like to make it clear that whatever decision Iberdrola comes up with is a collective decision of the board of directors, and not of Mr. Lopez alone," Cana said in a statement yesterday. "We would like to assure all concerned parties that Iberdrola will definitely not compromise the interest of its customers.

"As a corporate entity, we are no fault in doing whatever we can, within legal means, to help the government, the electric power industry and our customers to realize a lower electricity cost."

Malacañang conglomerate Ramon Ang, PNB's new Chairman, agreed to buy out its 7509 partners for P6 million, as well as assume the payment of the P227-million down payment for the Iberdrola plant.

But for the Meralco deal to push through, Ramon Ang quipped that a supply deal with Meralco be hammered out.

The deal was never finalized, prompting the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. to forfeit the $14-million performance bond 7509 had put up for the plant.

YNH still has upto Aug. 8 to remit the down payment and keep the deal alive. The bond, however, will remain forfeited.

Banks may soon engage in SBL

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MAGIC BEHIND SECURITIES BORROWING AND LENDING (SBL) is set to allow banks to trade securities they don't own without being burdened with a reserve requirement or mark to market—a practice known around the world as securities borrowing and lending (SBL).

BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. told reporters the banking regulator would complement the Securities and Exchange Commission's recent promulgation of regulations on SBL, which allows market players to trade two-way quotes (buy or sell) to maximize opportunities during a bearish market.

Once they get to borrow or lend securities among themselves, banks will be in a position to better employ investment strategies like short selling—or selling securities they have yet to buy—arbitraging, or taking advantage of rate differentials and hedging risks.

Espenilla said the SBL rule issued by the SEC would not only apply to stocks trading, but also to the domestic bond market. He said the forthcoming BSP circular would exempt banks' SBL transactions from the reserve requirement to encourage these activities.

"This is part of the reforms to create liquidity in the market," Espenilla said. "It helps in sharpening liquidity because a dealer ought to make two-way quotes. But it's very hard for a dealer or a market maker to have firm offer rates if the offer is hit and he doesn't have the security.

"With SBL, the dealer can borrow the securities so it makes the market more efficient and reliable. That's why the BSP is very supportive of SBL."

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MOTORING

ALTHOUGH THE ZAZEN is just a concept, expect a number of innovations and technologies employed to find its way in future car models.

Makrolon is 200 times stronger than glass and provides 250 times the impact strength of glass

FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN AUTOMOTIVES

High-tech plastic in cars

FUTURE glass but much better. The Makrolon polycarbonate is a designer's dream come true.

By Charles E. Bolton

THIS YEAR'S Geneva International Motor Show in Switzerland debuts a rather fascinating concept car called zaZen, a Porsche Carrera-based coupé developed by Swiss automotive design specialist, Rinspeed.

What makes zaZen interesting is not just its name (which literally means seated meditation) or its powerful specs (a 360 horsepower, 3.9-liter engine that catapults the two-seater from zero to 100 kph in just 4.8 seconds but also the high-tech plastic material used extensively in the car.

If this is the automobile of the future, then we would soon be driving cars made mostly of plastic, that is, a very advanced form of plastic called Makrolon polycarbonate.

"Makrolon is one of the most versatile and dynamic materials ever developed. With its high-impact strength, light weight, flexibility, shatter resistance and its ability to be formed and made either transparent or opaque, Makrolon makes a better and safer substitute for glass," described Dorothy Chavez, [illegible]

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CHEVROLET
WE'LL BE THERE.

Gov't ally; Isuzu hybrid

IN JUST 12 YEARS OR SO YEARS OR so, Petron has reminted a whopping total of P6 billion to PHOC (Philippine Shorewal Oil Co.). What is true. That's an average of P500 million a year since Petron was privatized in 1994. Statistics now show that Petron is one of the strongest financial allies of the cash-strapped government.

Only days ago, Petron, the one-time money leader in the oil business and chaired by Ricardo Aliatonzon, gave a dividend payout of P975 million to PHOC.

Just last year alone, Petron had a net income of P6.06 billion, in fact drawing to 10 years.

Industry experts attributed the windfalls largely to Petron's various operational improvements and healthy export spurts.

The PHOC has a 98 percent stake in Petron, the same stake that Saudi Aramco owns in the oil firm. The remaining 28 percent is owned by the public.

* * *

I had mixed face On issue a while back about Petron's claim of being more fuel efficient than its rivals.

Specifically, I refer to that TV ad featuring the legendary motor sports racer Pochoie Ramirez and his son driving the Honda Jazz from Pagsajjaud up North to Mexico down South. The ad showed the Ramirezes consuming less gas driving the Petron-fueled Jazz.

The clever drive machine team some quarters in the industry insinuating Honda brands bombing an incumbency of "contrarts in advertising." They smell a step further by saying advertising guidelines by have the TV ad pulled out from the airwaves.

They were unsuccessful though as Petron, in no time, proved the truthfulness of its claim.

Today we see the Petron TV ad being run regularly, particularly in most sporting events like the recent World Cup of football, and in movies/PBA games.

FULL TANK

Al Henderson

Indeed when you are up there, they throw all kinds of mud at you. You just have to bear and grin it.

The price of being No. 1

* * *

If you think it's only in the Philippines that car sales are down, think again.

The United States also suffers from declining car sales.

Last month alone, car sales in the world's most powerful country dropped 18.5 percent.

Among the world's giant automakers, only Toyota saw the one bright spot, continuing its string of month-by-month sales increases with a 11.4 percent from last year's performance.

General Motors, the industry world leader, plunged 2.5 percent from its record sales in 2005 even as the automakers saw their collective sales drop 16.7 percent in June.

John O'Dell of the Los Angeles Times said the sharp drop happened because "many motorists apparently remained wary of continued high gasoline prices and waited for a new round of investment."

If you still don't know it, the US is also the largest human, if not the "sole capital," of the world.

OK, in a bid to rebound from its terrible backside in 2005 resulting in a $1.84 billion loss (ouch!) by falling sales, is seriously considering stocking up with Renault and Nissan. The global alliance could result in production of more than 1.5 million vehicles a year, or about a quarter of all new cars and trucks sold worldwide.

If that should happen, the face of motoring business will never be the same again.

* * *

Here's good news from Isuzu

The No. 1 diesel engine company in the world is also now into hybrid, that wondrous vehicle technology designed for environment conscious and motoring tooth-to-degree.

The famous Isuzu elf truck is now hybrid-powered. Although it is currently only available in Japan, hopefully it would soon be brought here by Isuzu Philippines Corp. through its president and CEO, Mr. Kenichi Ayukawa.

I feel like every truck-dependent businessman is dying to own one, Kenichi-san.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Chuck that wipes it can save your life on a rainy night.

E-mail comments to me: ayukawa@inf.net.

5 Best Driving Roads, Summer 2006

(Last of two parts)

BEING UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS IS A vacation ritual I remember from the earliest years of my youth. Sure, school was out, something to enthusiastically celebrate in itself but my true joy came from those road trips with my family.

These long driven were welcomed with equal amounts of excitement and wonder, knowing that everything on the other end of half a day's travel would be crisp, perfumed by pine and cooler than the sleeping residents of here that in Manila at the mercy of the summer's sun. Everything just promised to be different, I guess, once the road began to climb upward and out of view.

Learning experience

Peering out of the windows as a child while a car attends is signing it is learning experiences of sorts. One begins to see marked changes as you gain elevation: the shale and chestnut of the boulders, the deep and vibrant greens of the trees covering almost everything, and the occasional waterfall patiently roaring through stone.

Your body also considers the touch of cool elevation, especially the back of your head and the capitols, cooled breathing becomes a little more labored and the cooling of one's nasal actually becomes a pleasant experience. I could see such for these signs to manifest themselves, as I know that meant the destination could soon just be over the next curve or possibly around the next switchback.

Later on in life, I would begin to do the driving myself, self-induced because of all the memories that have come with traveling up mountains but more now because I now appreciate actually negotiating the mountain roads so much as arriving to the destination, it's a logical transition. Over the last decade, roads of the past summer provides success to altitude and the inevitable ranges and turns with twisty narrow that come with such climbs.

Ford event

The very first long road trip of this past working summer was a Ford event that brought me to Baguio. Bagnio for the first time. The approach to the tight, tangled route that leads to the sleepy mountain town and its fabled rice terraces begins with slight rises and turns through tree-lined, two-lane concrete roads. Those open up into a paved access road straddling a small canyon with impressive views more cliffs dominating the scenery. Stop along this wide section of road and take in the views, while the rest of the drive to Baguio is also quite picturesque, it would be best to concentrate on the road if any real fun is to be had.

Once you navigate the canyon, via a narrow steel bridge, the driving begins in earnest. It is probably just my imagination, but it seems that the corners get deeper and the straights become shorter as one approaches the destination. Steel inclines are not the most immediate, until a lot of ground, and more supporting the way but this only adds to the excitement. Remember to back off once signs of exhaustion begin to crop up on the roadside, not just for safety's sake, but do so as the terrain come into view soon after the town begins. Be patient with the local traffic in and around the area; overloaded jeepneys are commonplace and struggle with the steep rises of some sections.

Kennon uphill

The best driving road accolade therefore goes to a well-known but oft-misunderstood road, the Kennon Uphill. I've run many have ventures off this gem of roiled tarmac as both too congested and too dangerous. Sure, there are times that this old approach to Baguio resembles a long procession in honor of the gods of patience and tolerance. There are also times when the inevitable handholds and curses line heavily behind its natives. Then, the road is not perfect but there are moments where one can find himself/herself practically alone on this beautifully technical piece of

SHEET: B2.1

CARLOS Prado, public affairs officer of Chevron, leads his dad assistant on Mazda vehicle during a vehicle free emission testing.

BOSCH emission technicians view the results of a Mazda supplier vehicle release emission level test tested.

Jumpstarting the good life: clean engines, clean fuel for clean air

FOR MUZLI PHILIPPINES INC., "THE GOOD Life" means more than just good nutrition. It is an institutional platform for social responsibility, not just among its employees, but also among its suppliers and other partners. Through its social responsibility initiatives, Muzli hopes to be able to promote a good life for its employees and for everyone whom Muzli does or are able to touch.

Muzli's mission was the guidepost when Muzli embarked on a joint activity with the Energy and Clean Air Project (Ecap) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Robert Bosch Inc. (Philippines) and Chevron Inc. Called the Ecap Project, the activity aims to promote cleaner engines and cleaner fuel for clean air," the activity was held recently at Muzli's Inc Caruso & Chilled Dairy Division on Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City.

Forum

The activity featured a forum where participants discussed the country's air quality issues shared by Commodore M. Perez of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Josephine Mangilla, Communications Specialist of Ecap. Also present as resource persons were Jess C. Reyes and Alejo Dizon of Muzli, Carlos Antonio Prado of Chevron Inc. who discussed the economic and environmental impacts of using alternative fuels, particularly biodiesel, and Mario Rivera of Robert Bosch Inc. who discussed proper vehicle maintenance.

As a joint initiative, the activity underscored the importance of generating multi-sectoral support in efforts to achieve the objectives of Ecap project. The forum also discussed the importance of proper vehicle maintenance and use of alternative fuels for cleaner air among the factory's fleet drivers and employees.

Emission tests

A key feature of the activity involved the conduct of a free and voluntary emission testing among the service fleet of Muzli, including its suppliers and employees. Dry-ring emissions tests were conducted via a Bosch BEA350 and BTE005 Opacimeter diesel and Gas analyzer, capable of detecting carbon levels and toxicity in vehicle emissions. A biodiesel demonstration was also conducted by Chevron, which provided 30 liters of biodiesel additive samples.

"This joint initiative, which coincided with the Environment Month, is in line with Muzli's thrust to bring The Good Life among Filipinos," said Jess Reyes. Muzli head for safety, health and environment. "We are honored to cooperate with socially conscious and like corporations such as Chevron and Bosch. Muzli views this as the beginning of a deeper, more significant cooperation with Ecap and its partners, toward a successful advocacy for sustainable energy and cleaner air. This activity is one among the numerous activities Muzli is undertaking as part of its environment-long-running "Greening the Supply Chain" outreach and education program.

Environment rounds

The participation of Robert Bosch Inc. and Chevron, which have been participating in numerous Ecap activities as previously mentioned, is a fine example of an inter-corporate initiative that seeks to address a major issue facing the country today. In recognizing this effort, Mangilla of Ecap said, "The private sector enjoys the distinct advantage of serving as industry evangelists in promoting the sustainable campaign for sustainable energy and clean air. Ecap lauds the efforts of Bosch, Bosch and Chevron as a fine example of meaningful private sector cooperation in promoting cleaner air for present and future generations of Filipinos. This initiative is clearly not only an agenda for corporate citizenship, but also a social investment.

MUZLI employees attend a forum that promotes the importance of proper vehicle maintenance and use of alternative fuels for cleaner air.

MOTORSCOPE

Solutions for the energy crisis

TRANSPORT SEMI-INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION (TSIA) is launching its "solutions for the energy crisis" on its yearling theme, and is valued from July 21 to 23 at the Central Plaza, Market! Market! Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.

It will showcase the finest and most skilled cars in the industry, cars with great style and practical sense. Check out acceleration to LPG fed stoves and other fuel saving devices by Filipino inventors. TSIA's policy is to be environ Mass Super Turbo Charger, car accessories and hand accommodations. There will be seminars and lectures on alternative fuels as well as test drives and car care tips.

The event is supported by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Sustainable Energy Development Project), United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Philippine Petroleum Institute, Department of Science and Technology, and Department of Energy, Autoline TV and Magazine, Sr 1-Net, STAR, Magic 89.9 and 90.

4 vehicles at stake in Toyota promo

TOYOTA DEALERS IN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO ARE OFFERING FOR THE FIRST semester of 2006 six Toyota Value Certificates (TVCs), lowest down payment of 10 percent and a grand cashback raffle promo with four exhilarating prizes.

TVCs are certificates with a specific amount given to customers who purchase the Avanza, Altis and Vios. They can be used for accessories, chattel mortgage, LTO registration fee or cash discount. The Innova is being offered at P163,000 for the low-end Journey unit at P1,064,000 for the high-end S variant. For all variants of the Innova, a total TVC worth P30,000 is given. The Altis (1.6 and J variants) have suggested retail price (SRP) ranging from P733,000 to P880,000. While Toyota is also promoting its Vios car with a P40,000 worth of TVCs. The sporty Altis (S), on the other hand, has a TVC value of P50,000.

The 2006 Department of Energy (DOE)'s most fuel-efficient car Vios (1.5 and E variants are priced from P676,000 to P721,000. The Vios J TVC amounts to P751,000 while E variant is offered at P720,000 TVC.

RP car touring champ aspirant

JEFF KORA OF BOSCH CARAGUA RACING AFTER PREVIOUSLY qualifying only seventh on the 11-car grid, finished third and fourth respectively in races three and four.

This was the overall result of the Philippine Touring Car Championship (PTCC) Group 2 C division.

He earned 14 points for a total of 66 points. That put him in third, and behind the entirely local by two drivers.

The race was marred by a heavy four-car collision during the first lap. It was a scoring first time that most drivers were not aware of. Kora worked his way up to finish on the podium before this checkered flag.

Jeff is being supported by Bosch Good Year Racing, Castrol, H&R Springs, K-Tuy Body Kits, Rockets, Puma, Kicker Audio, PIE iPod adapter, Generated Wheels, Spyder Eyewear, Aquashift, PistonsCourt, Lite Magazine and Jack & Jones Magazine.

NISSAN SUPPORTS TYSON SY

Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. formalized its support for the "Prince of Philippine racing" Tyson Sy (2nd from left), during the event signing ceremony held in Mandaluyong. Tyson, who now is the ambassador of NMPI, currently leads the driver's championship standings in the Asian Formula 2 cup. From left are NMPI AVP for Marketing and Sales Dennis Chang, NMPI president Lennar Lee and NMPI senior manager for Market and Product Planning Raymond Wallace.

High-tech plastic . . .

From page B1

Bayer Cloech Eco Solid corporate communication head.

Germany-based Bayer Group owns the company Bayer MaterialScience, which in cooperation with Bitzpost produced the concept cabriolet.

Largest producer

Bayer MaterialScience is the world's largest producer of MaDelon.

Bayer invented the polycarbonate in 1953 and has continued to work with its customers to develop many innovative applications from automotive headlamp lens, CDs and DVDs, medical devices and glasses-resistant optical lenses to name just a few.

Indeed, Makrolon is a designer's dream come true and for Frank Rinderknecht, who gave autos its unique form, it would have been difficult if not impossible had they used glass.

The autos has seven a smoothly contoured, translucent, one-piece roof dome made of high-tech Makrolon. The teardrop-shaped dome runs down to the car's left rear.

"Makrolon is half the weight of glass. This gives safety a much lower center of gravity and thus, less power to rollover," explained Claes.

Moreover, Makrolon is 100 times stronger than glass and provides 250 times the impact strength of glass.

Technical revolution

The autos also ushers in a technical revolution in car interiors with the translucent back light being turned into a holistic holographic area.

Explained at the rear of the massive dome is a hologram third brake light that completely vanishes when not illuminated.

Five . . .

From page B1

public highway.

Being blessed with such an experience is an epiphany of sorts, especially for those of us who like to drive. The beauty of fantasy is in its variety. There are times that the road itself is made just to frustrate drivers, having trouble to prepare for the next turn will definitely take the fun out of any attempted arcout. Yet, just as one wants to give up and crawl—deserted to the top—the way opens up, giving the driver a time view of the next two corners and a very good hint of a third—allowing the driver to decide the next moves and chart a section at speed. Link up any number of these rhythm sections together and the road's true rather monotonous chore; the result is pure driving bliss. Anything that brings this much pleasure, is truly a good thing.

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ON THE ROAD
Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

A SHOCK WAVE STUNNED THE global automobile industry early this month when the international media reported a proposal for General Motors to join the alliance of Nissan Motor Co. and Renault SA, by allowing the two to acquire 20 percent of its equity. The deal, broached by GM's largest individual shareholder, Kirk Kerkorian, would create an auto giant producing 15 million motor vehicles a year, about a quarter of the global market and almost twice the eight million output of Toyota Motor Corp., the world's No. 2 automaker which is expected to overtake GM as No. 1 anytime soon.

Reckless believes that the proposed alliance would save GM, Renault and Nissan billions of dollars by sharing engineering, purchasing and manufacturing costs like engines and the basic components and vehicle platforms of automobiles.

Top honchos

Aside from the substantial synergies and cost savings projected, Kerkorian's gamble increases attention on the top honchos of the companies concerned. Carlos Ghosn, a Frenchman who was born in Brazil of Lebanese parents, is 52 while Rick Wagoner, chair and CEO of General Motors, is 53, after acquiring a 44 percent stake in Nissan in 1999, Renault sent Ghosn to run Nissan while Wagoner became CEO of GM a year later. But the similarities end there.

At the time Ghosn took over Nissan, it was nearly bankrupt and riddled with US$20 billion in debt. In fact, Robert Lutz, former vice chair of Chrysler who, ironically enough, later became vice chair of GM, predicted that anyone who bought Nissan might as well load billions of dollars in gold bullion on board a ship and sink it in the ocean.

Ghosn defied Lutz's prediction. He slashed costs by closing assembly plants and firing thousands of employees (thus ending the Nissan employment tradition in Japan), sold off insecure businesses, shattered the keiretsu corporate welfare system of Nissan's many lacking network of suppliers and affiliates, persuaded parts makers to help reduce Nissan's purchasing costs by 20 percent and saved the savings and proceeds from the sale of companies to reduce the massive debt. He restored profits, set financial targets and vowed to resign if he failed to meet them.

Met goals

Ghosn met his goals, taking Nissan from a $5.6 billion loss in 2000 to a $2.7 billion profit in 2001. A lean, reformed Nissan revamped its product line and launched new, boldly styled vehicles like the Murano SUV and Infiniti G35 sports car. Sales and profits soared and by 2005, Nissan was one of the most profitable companies in the industry with no-haggle price weighing. And although as the first non-Japanese to head Nissan he broke the mold and blew up time-honored taboos, Ghosn became a folk hero and the subject of a series of manga comic books in Japan. With his success in Tokyo, Ghosn was promoted to CEO of Renault in Paris last year although he remains in charge of Nissan.

Rick Wagoner, on the other hand, is more of a conservative team player than an iconoclast or icon of radical change. He has worked for GM since 1977 and in 1999, the year before he took over, GM earned a record $6.7 billion. In June 2000, when he became CEO, GM's stock was nearly $70 a share.

$10.6-B loss

But it's all been downhill for GM since then. GM had the capacity to produce more cars than it could sell. Burdened with the highest health, pension and labor costs in the industry and mired by heavy market share to foreign competitors with more fuel-efficient cars amid soaring oil prices, GM posted a $10.6-billion loss last year and by December 2005 its stock had plunged below $19 a share, a drop of more than 70 percent.

Wagoner is implementing a turnaround plan anchored on the closure of 12 plants by 2008, the elimination of 30,000 jobs in the United States, a deal with the United Auto Workers union to have retirees pay a bigger share of their health care costs and the reorganization of GM's global product development and purchasing structure. The news last month that 35,000 GM workers have accepted the early-retirement and buyout packages means that GM has reached its goal of trimming jobs two years ahead of schedule. This, plus the proposed alliance with Nissan-Renault, boosted GM stock to more than $29 a share.

In the first quarter this year, GM reported a modest profit but it was due to an accounting change and took flak over its continued negative GM's debt ratings remain in "deep junk" territory. Despite these, Wagoner won a public vote of confidence from GM's board and expressions of support from the company's dealers last April.

Revolutionary approach

However, the vote of confidence was not unanimous. Jerome York, Kerkorian's representative on the board, said that GM needs Ghosn's leadership style and personality more than Wagoner's measured steps to preserve as much of the status quo as possible while moving the business forward. Ghosn is known as a revolutionary, high risk/high reward approach. At 69, the billionaire who paid $1.4 billion or $39 a share for his 9.9 percent stake in GM hopes to look back on his investment as successful in a year or two... and 10 years.

There are many arguments for and against a GM-Renault-Nissan alliance that would reshape the global auto industry. But in the last analysis, it may all boil down to whether the differences in management style, corporate culture and personality of Carlos Ghosn and Rick Wagoner can be meshed successfully—if Ghosn doesn't take over Wagoner's job. That is what makes the proposed mega-merger so engrossing. (With reports from International Herald Tribune, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal Asia, Bloomberg News, Associated Press and The Los Angeles Times)

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LIFESTYLE

Campus color-coding

Go beyond smearing red [or green, blue, or yellow] stripes on your cheeks

Text by Bianca Consunji
Photos by Sara Black and Eric Alvarez

LOOKING FOR A NEW WAY to pledge allegiance to your school during UAAP pep rallies and games?

Instead of the usual color-coded shirts, foam fingers and flags, wear your school colors on your face—with real makeup, not skin-damaging paint that should be kept strictly in art class [many of those paints contain toxic ingredients, and are often hard to remove—you wouldn't want to see paint thinner on your face, would you?].

Go beyond smearing red [or green, blue, or yellow] stripes on your cheeks. Make your school-themed makeup a little more avant-garde by blending colorful eye shadows on your lids, cheekbones, and undereye area.

Try a pair of colored false lashes, or draw the school maroon on your lash with a bit of liquid liner. Always try to use hypoallergenic makeup, as the pigment won't mix with your sweat and irritate your skin, which could lead to breakouts. As UAAP games are usually held in crowded stadiums, the combination of sweat and nose-running makeup could only spell future headaches for your skin.

So go out and root for your favorite teams—and remember, men's basketball isn't the only UAAP sport, so support your school's female athletes and lesser known sports as well.

Unfortunately, due to yet another athletic scandal, the De La Salle University is not included in this year's UAAP lineup. However, true-blue La Sallites might want to show support for their school and their athletes (especially those who lead cheering in stir with the cheering) by wearing their school colors. The teams will definitely appreciate it.

E-mail the author at bianconsunji@yahoo.com

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Adamson University

For oily pretty:
Claire created fall-con-title look by using various shades of blue to contour Mauri's eyes. She finished off with pink blush, pink shine pink lips, and a pair of blue lashes on the lower eyelashes.
Make this wearable:
Blue, like green, makes dark-brown eyes pop—use a bright shade of blue to line your eyes, and voilà—the peach-n-pink blush and lip colors will tone down the look to make it wearable for bright blue.

University of the East

For oily pretty:
You can substitute Kaeg's maroon lip stain (regular red lipstick and white cancel-shadow will do) for non-satin shimmer-free lipstick.
Make this wearable:
Blend red in a very strong color, limit this one area on your face. Cherry-red lip gloss or light-red blush looks equally acceptable on Asian skin, so give it a try.

University of Santo Tomas

For oily pretty:
Claire Romero used yellow and peach from this year's Shu Uemura Rhythm Brushes palette to contour with powder one of warm colors, and drew black liner variants with her eyeliner.
Make this wearable:
Choose a pastel yellow color, mix it with light brown via the crease, and line your eyes with a little black liner, tidying it later to your taste like Match Darth neutral blush and lip color.

Campus color-coding

Far Eastern University

Ateneo de Manila University

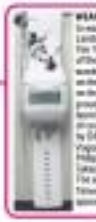
For oily pretty:
Show your naked for the Blue Eagles with shadow in the color while adding on your eyes. Try L'Oreal's Color Quartet Trio in Midnight Blue.
Make this wearable:
Smear a bit of shadow on white shadow on your lids and line your eyes with a bright shade of blue. Pair with a light pale color to tint off the blue.

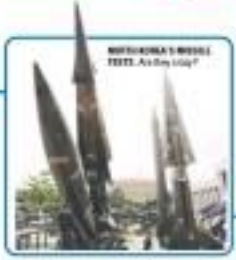
National University

For oily pretty:
Gold-toned blue and gold. Mix in colors to make bright dots of color on relaxed eyes. Want to wear this to your glamour? Combine day- blue eye color with gold pigment for a bright pop of color on your lids.
Make this wearable:
Instead of bright thumbprints of color, you can apply eyeliner on your eyes. Pair with neutral blush to avoid looking like a clown.

2BU! THERMOMETER

Two movies, hot snacks, Chinese meals and other things that rock our world





University of the Philippines

De La Salle University

Which shoe are you?

Pick a pair that fits your personality and it could be yours

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65 Years

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Nancy Hendricks

THINGS ARE GOING well for Scha, one of the fashion Freaks' favorite shoe stores. Its Glorietta branch is now bigger and is newly renovated, with more space to serve the city's Schaholics.

It has also opened another store in Mall of Asia and celebrated its blessing with a similar spread from Glasir Confections.

Scha's colorful new collections are also another reason to celebrate. We can't get enough of the polka dot wedges, bonus-embellished shoes, halter flats with ribbons, sexy pumps, flattering sandals and sparkly slides.

Scha wants to share its joy with 2,015 readers by giving away a pair of these—if your choice!

Here are five easy steps if you want to join Scha's Shoe Giveaway:

1. Check out Scha's current collection on this page.

2. Clip the article and encircle the shoe that best fits your personality.

3. Tell us—in 10 sentences or less—why you chose that shoe.

4. Mail the article, your essay and your personal information (name, age, school/office, contact info) in an envelope that would attract our attention.

5. Drop off your entries or mail them to Scha's Shoe Giveaway with 2007 Lifestyle Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Ortigas Ave. corner Sapan and Maysilo Streets, Mandaluyong City. Entries should be in by July 20.

Scha has branches at Glorietta 2, Megamall, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Robinsons Galleria and Mall of Asia. Visit the Scha blogs at http://schashop.multiply.com, http://schashop.blogspot.com and http://schashop.quiero.com.

25 LIFESTYLE

SMOOTH & SEXY
HAIR-FREE
BIKINI LINES
892

Filling up on Sandwich

The band talks about its new album, former frontman Marc Abaya, eye makeup, fans and rumors of an E-heads reunion

By Irene C. Perez

IS SANDWICH STILL "FILLING" enough after almost seven years on the road? Let's see: the band has four albums, hundreds of gigs, a new guitarist, three friendster accounts and an e-group that averages a hundred messages per day—in various dialects, at that.

Sandwich recently released their fourth album "Five on the Floor," which easily started off as a year on the "Four on the Floor" theme beat. Frontman Raimund Marasigan said the album "incubated" for a year and had the least time to record.

"It is a recording of the past year," he said, "a record of our year together."

Buddy Zabala, Sammy's former Sunsetheads bandmate, produced the album under UBS Philippines, a follow-up to the 2004 independently released "Thanks to the Moon's Continental Pull."

Former vocalist Marc Abaya left the band early this year to focus on his stint as MTV VJ and his band Kjwan, as frontstand took over the singing job.

Enter new guitarist Mong Alcaraz from Chicosci and The Bitter Pill, fresh in the delights of female fans.

Completing the Sandwich cohesifu are Mike Dizon on drums, Diego Castillo on guitars and Myrene Arañeneta on bass, rockstar mommy to Raimund's kid, Azul.

Although these dudes also play for other bands (Mike for Perfecto, Raimund for Cambio, Jepoth and Pocholo Moreno for Dingo), Mong for Chicosci and The Bitter Pill), Sandwich is still their main dish.

The punk rock band was recently voted Best Indie Artist in the Awit Alpa Music Awards, and was chosen MTV's Local Artist for the month of April. The videos 'We Must Party' and 'Sabihin Mo' are in heavy rotation. Read on:

How different is the album from the previous ones?

Raimund (RM): It had the least guitars with the least distortion, with the most keyboards.

Mong Alcaraz (MA): The songs have the most backup vocals, a number of different voices.

What's your composition process like?

RM: Da Ba, minsan si Mong magdadala ng isang buong kanta sa, or minsan may iprese ka lang, chorus, melody or concept. Minsan naman buong crew gagawa ka lang ng chorus.

Like "Broken," pinapress sa amin ng isang TV station para sa isang pilot na 'di natuloy, so we just included it in the album.

Minsan walang verse talaga, just words that go nice together like "Goodnight Joanne" Classic heidenkriyot.

Meaning lurking ungapgusong songs 'yug downtime—as sipper, kindo sa van, music video shoot, interview.

"Ungod," the first single off the album, has a ghost video directed by Rhatu Antonio). What's the inspiration behind it?

RM: Natood kasi ng ("Nightfall") reunion concert ng Juan de la Cruz band your tapos nandoon sa harap yung mga members...from Becky Santos to Farland Dulo—ay sorry like kids na pinapapanta sa shows sainda.

Kainip ko, 'Hey, I'm going to name my right pasa, chick my hair back and wear my denim

FOLLOWS D4

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DIVINE COMEDY — by STEVEN PAULINO

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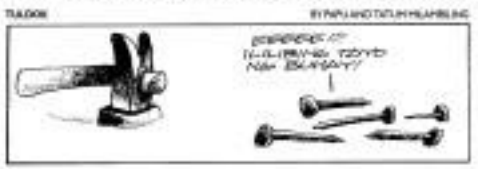

BEHN — by DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

7					3	6	9	1
2					9			
4					6			
5	7	6						
						2	1	3
			4					7
			1					6
6	3	8	7					4

Difficulty Level ★★★

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	2	4	3	8	7	1	5	6
3	5	8	1	4	2	7	9	8
7	1	6	9	5	6	2	3	4
1	7	5	4	9	3	8	6	2
2	8	3	6	1	5	9	4	7
4	6	9	2	7	8	5	1	3
8	3	1	5	2	9	4	7	6
5	9	2	7	3	4	6	8	1
6	4	7	8	6	1	3	2	5

Filling up on Sandwich

MGHG Alcoraz from Chicosci and The Bloor PH swapped up and took over Marc Abaja's guitar tasks.

DO YOU KNOW your fave rockstar's real name? Ginga is Ginga Rebel Clavaral Cuarino, Mong is Miguel Cidvaranas Ramos Alcoraz, Raimund is Raimund Emmanuel Perron Marasigan, Myrene is Ma. Irene Dimasuay Asuncion, and Mike is Michael Arandia Dizon

From page D1

jacket." Bigkat upon pagdating ko doon, gumawa sha ilang eyes at things. Exactly the same! (Laughter)

MA: Parang frames lumitaw sa kanya.

RM: We were singing along and pumping our fists, kulang na lang bandera. Ha, thought of doing something like that for the video.

'Shears and Jaspe'

RM: "Shears" is taking for "Sandwich" anyone. A nonplay on fashionistas.

JM: Kasi in the sort of Jose Stone [of the defunct '90s show "Spaghetti Wit"]. Kasi 'pag mali nya sasabihin ng isang tao, "Shears na nagkamali Jaspe!"

RM: "Shears" is taking for "Sandwich" anyone. A nonplay on fashionistas.

JM: Kasi in the sort of Jose Stone [of the defunct '90s show "Spaghetti Wit"]. Kasi 'pag mali nya sasabihin ng isang tao, "Shears na nagkamali Jaspe!"

(Laughter)

So bumasa! Ibig sabihin, sa kanila ako nakakilala ng isang Jaspe, sumasama mill ang "Shears" dyan ka nagkakamali, Jaspe!" (Laughter)

MA: How does Raimund's eye makeup?

RM: I do it on my own. (Laughs) That was inspired by a show I saw in 2000, supposed namin iyong "The Cure Live."

Then, around two years ago, ang ganda ng isdaan nila sa ulan. Sabi ko, kailangan namin mag-eyeliner din.

MA: Pag may nagpapa-autograph ngayon, eyeliner lang pinapapirma. (Laughter)

RM: May nakita si Mong after a show sa SM, binarangay ng mga pendo iyong eyeliner nila.

MA: Bakasi sa eyeliner na kami, may sabon na rin ako (to remove it). Haha, makeremember nila. (Laughter)

Tuna vs chicken sandwich

How different is your second now that Marco's out of the band?

MA: It's like tuna sandwich vs chicken sandwich. Both filling, but different.

RM: Kasama pa namin Gwendolyn sa Bloor. Kumanta pa siya sa mixes. Perfect bounce ng isa, boses and si Marc iyong beat.

Si Marc naman 'pag nandyan, pinapa-part din namin. Pambiya naman si Rem. Kailangan lang siyang gawin iyong kailangan niyang gawin.

Mike Bitoon (MB): Accepted na kasi iyong sound namin, sa beach na kinakausap na "naman si Marc? Bitoon si Marc?"

What are the internal changes in the band?

JM: Mawawala adjustments si Marc, iyong ito-trying mag-guitar at humanda na kailangang i-divide iyong work. Kailangan naming gawin ng paraan to di parehas, pareho ang...

Sabay rin si Mong. Like in this album[], kabat ng lumabas kami, it's the album with the most upbeat backgrounds.

Since mayroon si very active and [...] ang gusto ni band na nagpipino—go to your gigs. How do you maintain the following for years?

JM: It's the same for [...] and more. Nadagdagan. Iyong mga bago, mga luma.

They even tell you guys are small guys in the [...]?

MB: May TV element din, because of the videos. May mga gimmicks sa live shows nadagdag.

JM: Good thing is naiwan yung mga luma sa mediatar. Like when Ginga was in Singapore for works, or last week when Marc [...] [...] so [...] [...]

MB: Our hundred percent pa rin kahit kulang ng isa, ng dalawa.

JM: Our hundred percent is ung matching mo sa mga kanta, kahit nandyan sha.

Last year nga, si Mong ang [...] sa gig, nagkapalit pa sha nilat dundee from iyong pinuntas ng [I Manalo] mag-isa without any inhouse.

MB: Sobrang close knit si [...] Mga twice a year, may swimming party kami. Siguro ka-[...] iyong mag-kasa's night at may swimming party.

Do you personally check and answer the mails?

MB: Wah, I check daily, and Myrene, too.

Indie on more

After signing up for your first and second albums, then going indie for the third, why sign up under a major label again now?

JM: It was a good deal [with] [...], a really sweet deal.

MB: Kasi iyong huling album ["Thanks to the Shore"], due to budget constraints, kami iyong engineer, producer and siempre kailan iyong album sa studio.

MB: Pero siempre namin sa either iyong indieism, as magsasarili ka kung may maibibitaw sila. (Laughter)

But don't bands earn more by producing independently?

JM: Times, mas marami kang pera na napapasa pag indie ka...

MB: Mataga! Marami pinag-aaparan iyon. Kaya namin kasi ito nga sa pera ng indie o dapat tayo sa popularity na ibinigay ng major sound?"

JM: Sa indie, 100 percent is ung minsan-sin, wala kang label eh, done iyong label. Pero malaki na si SM Jun Fernando, wala ka sa SM Stores.

Pupunta pero ka lang sa gigs sa Manila para 'pag may mga label ka, iyong pinaninimbang sin sa buong Philippines.

MB: Wala hanting choice. Our label dropped us. Ibanbon mean na nag-drop-ang labels ng mainstay kanila kasi iba iyong sins.

JM: Iyon pa rin, pero [...] ung Soundtrack, "di natuloy nag-deal na indie or major label. Pareho pa rin ung amount of work na gagawin namin to promote it.

Songs on the floor

"Wire on the Floor" has an interesting packaging. The sleeve is a spread of stickers, and the band has no photo on it.

JM: Pretty long sticker ng album kasi did the [...], it was not an artistic or rebellious decision.

RM: It doesn't mean anything.

MB: We wanted "Sandwich" to be the second single, kaso [...] [...] ng tag-ulan. (Laughs)

RM: We're having "Walang Kaduda-duda" rumored as second single.

JM: "Walang Kaduda-duda" is also a band thing. [It was rewritten] sa mga [...], sa mga sad [...] [...].

After seven years, what more can we expect from Sandwich?

JM: We're covering "Bakit ang Iniisa" for an Ayo Hilang [...] tribute album, arranged and produced by Mong.

What's next? A new website, new shirt designs, tighter pants... (Laughter)

MB: Gimpaw!

E-heads comeback?

You're working with former bandmate Buddy now, it is featherheads reunion in the works?

RM: Having Buddy Edeza as producer was a group decision. Gusto lang namin ng artist. As far as E-heads reunion—ayo in the near future.

MB: Every week! And write a song, may nagsasabong na reporter about it.

RM: We cover the Heads in [...]. Though, Labot ng Kabuhayan Balmond, E-heads Edeza.

E-mail the author at jpernia@inq7.net

Robinsons Department Store

FLYWEAR, the trendy but affordable sunglasses, has opened new branches at SM City North EDSA and SM City Sta. Rosa. Now, it has 21 branches all over Metro Manila. With new celebrity endorser Isabel Oli, Flywear makes the case that it's not just an ordinary eyewear. Its UV 400 technology also provides fashionable protection against the sun's harmful rays.

Tuned for tunes

Nokia N91 delivers the goods, musically

By Gabriel H. Mercado
Contributor

IN THE COURSE OF REVIEWING some of the best cell phone, PDA, mp3 player, camera and combo varieties of those the industry has to offer, I have had the unwelcome opportunity of encountering some lemons.

Most of the time, it would be difficulty in managing a specific function, usually the mp3 player or the camera. But it can also be a feature that does not seem to be as modern as the rest of the phone, a confusing operating system, or not enough memory to store information or run programs.

In a recent case, the situation was bad enough to render a loaner for review close to useless, as I could not even text or call someone without pulling my hair in frustration. I had to go back to my old phone.

The experience taught me not to expect too much from new products, but rather, to see them as what they are—as an exercise by the manufacturers to develop the next cutting edge, highest level of tech available, in order to develop next year's "ordinary phone," albeit at the occasional expense of practicality.

It's not if like Nokia's (yes, which was the latest, straight from the lab innovations/features are in ordinary cars. Although superior in every way, it'd be silly to drive one on the street as you'd need a team of mechanics following in a truck.

Of course, the long success has you get the point. And that's not the wrong I thought, of buying a high-end phone. Our sites practicality and paying a hefty price just to get "live-cutting edge technology."

Until Nokia N91 came along.

'Featuritis'

Let's talk about what gets everybody salivating: 4GB of hard disk-based storage, for an up-percentage 2,000 songs and a micro-cache memory that can store hours of listening pleasure.

Bundle on a good old-fashioned (and therefore universally compatible) audio line-in/line-out cable and the 91 becomes a second boom-box with features to spare. And there's no mistake what Nokia is trying to do here: this is a flagship for the "phone with music player" market. Either use the earphones, or hook it up with a stereo's standard 3.5-mm jack and you're playing your 5,000 songs everywhere people.

Then there's connectivity. Common among other hi-Series, notably the 3555, 3500 and 3651, is tri-band functionality, along with 3G and Bluetooth. I don't, OR 2.0 along with my absolute favorite, Wi-Fi.

For me, the ability to keep an eye on e-mail while going about daily chores without tuning my computer on is a godsend. Those like myself who worship e-mail gods (Steve and Gmail will agree, dear pinoy that can hook you up by last walking past Cool) touching all's a refreshment's first hunger or so you can use the phone's camera and get within your house's Wifi range, feels like a miracle.

If Nokia could put an 802.11a/b/g on into the mix, I might even reconsider buying the new laptop I've been saving for.

We round off with the camera, featuring 2MP capabilities and its digital zoom, which is, in my book, about as close to becoming seriously useful as phone-cams get, and even then, cavalry-saviour-for-

NOKIA N91

ON THE OUTSIDE, looking in. Barely recognizable in dentist's cloth, the author (right) scales Dr. Salcedo in a mock dental checkup.

dentist for a day

Oral-B promotes proper dental care

By Angela V. Ignacio
Staff Correspondent

FOR RIGHT NOW, TEETH CARE is not on top of our priorities, but, but without enough true. Oral-B's recent event, "Dentist for A Day," showed members of the press why oral and dental hygiene is important and that observing so is not expensive nor time-consuming or commonly thought.

For starters, Ming Arroyo and Jonas Avellana of Oral-B and Dr. Jessica Santos of the UP College of Dentistry gave eye-opening talks on the do's and don'ts and types of oral and dental care in the Philippines.

Trivia: did you know that tooth decay is five times more common in children than asthma? That's odd? That probably seems because the pain that it's okay not to brush milk teeth, as they will eventually be replaced by permanent ones.

In one country, the staggering prevalence of gum disease and tooth decay is enough to make a dentist cry. Some families in impoverished areas are even reported to chase toothaches, thus spreading bacteria from mouth to mouth.

Fine, going to the dentist can seem pain, but so it seems (see to mention whopping bill) for the tooth decay-random majority so these avoid those appointments even though their pearly whites have now become dirty whites.

All of these stats prove that the importance is given to continuing dental problems, beyond going to town, Oral-B aims to reverse that trend by reintroducing and promoting proper oral and dental care through their top-of-the-line products that suit people of all ages.

It's no wonder then, that the 2006 Oralstat Equity study conducted by AC Nielsen revealed that 66 percent of Filipino dentists personally use Oral-B.

Dentist for a day

After the talk, the members of the press were given the chance to become dentists for a day, complete with white coats, hair masks, headlamps caps and surgical gloves.

Fortunately for us, our "patients" (who were members from the UP College of Dentistry) took their dental hygiene lessons seriously, so we had no gruesome encounters with tooth decay during our brief stint as "dentists."

As our "dentist buddies," Dr. Jessica Santos, Dr. Marcelle Saldaña and Dr. Simeon Sotelo of the faculty of the UP College of Dentistry gave us a firsthand look at how to do a proper dental checkup as well as taking the patient's oral history.

We had the "patient" rinse his mouth with a plaque disclosing solution which, as Dr. Salcedo explained to our group, stains the plaque a ridden areas a darker shade of red.

Next, she showed us how to use a power toothbrush properly, which meant turning it on when it's already in your mouth so the toothpaste won't splatter.

And, instead of the usual up-and-down routine, the power toothbrush should stay put on each tooth for about two seconds, as massaging and brushing excessively will only hurt your gums.

The whole experience left me thinking more about my brushing and flossing habits. When I think of all the plaque and decay and gunshoes bacteria that my dentists have to deal with every day, I start to think that maybe I should make their jobs a little easier.

Besides, keeping my teeth clean and white (or maybe as close to white as humanly possible) will inspire me to smile more. Now that's a habit I could really sink my teeth into.

Some helpful tips

- Invest in a good, sturdy toothbrush. Most dentists would recommend one with soft bristles. The "good" ones are a bit pricier, I know, but it beats having to pay thousands of pesos for a root canal.
- Change your toothbrush regularly. Most manufacturers have indicators that fade when it's time to buy a new one. Or if you're dental? Since any, change it every two months. Also, don't forget to brush your tongue.
- Use toothpaste sparingly. No matter how much fluoride and/or you squirt on your brush will only take so often as you brush it. Besides, too much fluoride can weaken the enamel of your teeth, so help and a pea-sized amount on your toothbrush.
- Have a regular brushing routine. You can start from the front or the back, it's up to you, but having a routine will ensure that you've brushed every tooth and every of your mouth. It's recommended to brush your upper set of teeth first as this drill talks down and is washed off after us. Make it a point to brush the back of your teeth thoroughly, as it is the unsuccessful power to locate microbes.
- Don't skimp on the floss. Whoa as 18 inches are both painless, helping any food traces and dislodging bacteria other teeth. Cut the floss around each tooth in a C and rub gently as it won't hurt your gums and remove plaque better.

Angela V. Ignacio

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